Lovely Strange Dark
YORU NO DOUWA
"EVENING FAIRY-TALES"
BY KONNO KITA
CHAPTER 1
Translation Kalendel
Editing Cpt Mischief
QC Ianu
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

夜の童話

よるのどうわ

紺野キタ

presented by Kita Konno

夜の童話

YORU NO DOUWA

KONNO KITA

Presented by Kita Konno

CONTENTS

The Road Home	...1
Garden	...21
Beyer's Waltz	...43
The House that Waits for Spring	...59
Rattle	...89
The Man who Sells Glasses	...105
Light Source	...137
Evening Fairy-Tales	...143

Is it possible
that the town I
grew up in still
exists here?

—As more
than just my
vague memories
of it.

THE ROAD HOME

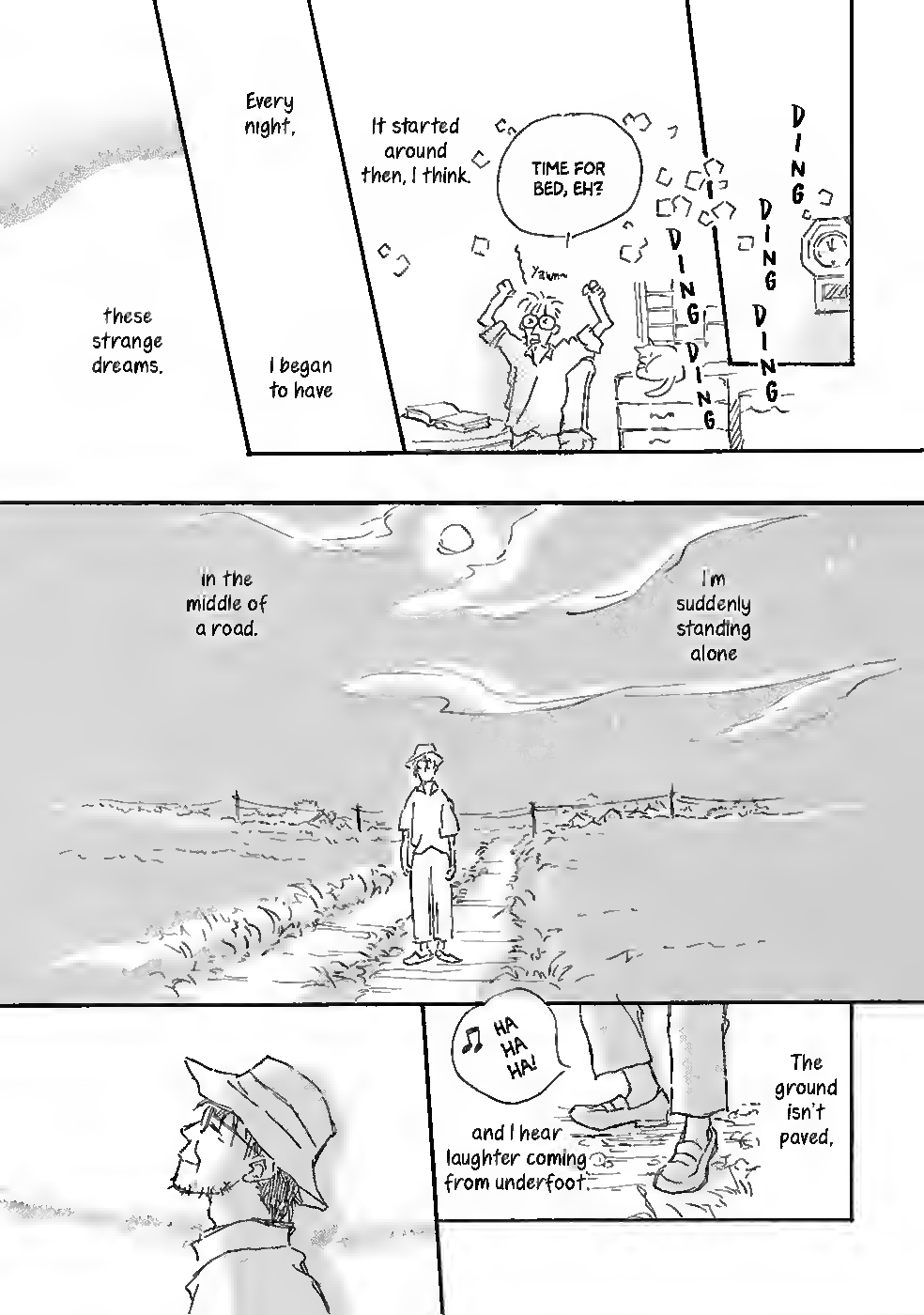
My wife of many years went to Heaven without me.

and I'm already retired,

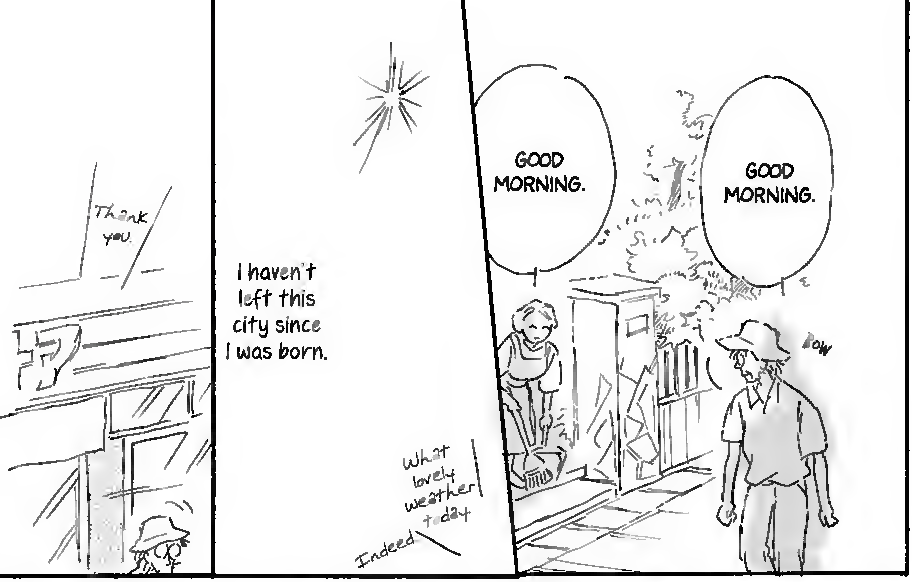
As we had no children,

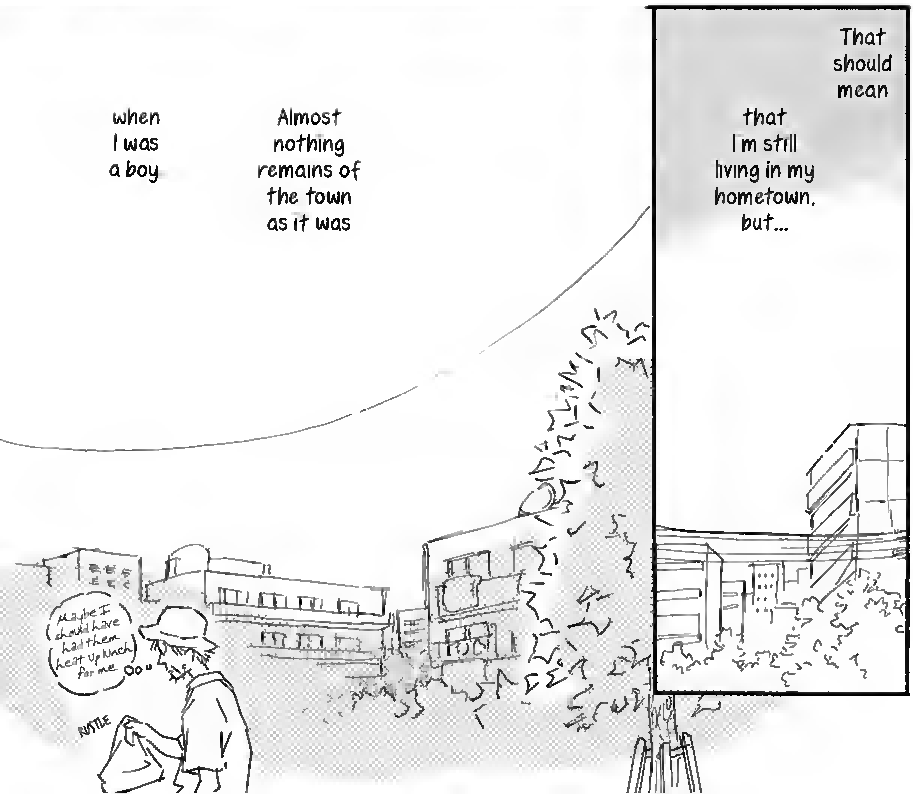
with my cat Mary as my companion.

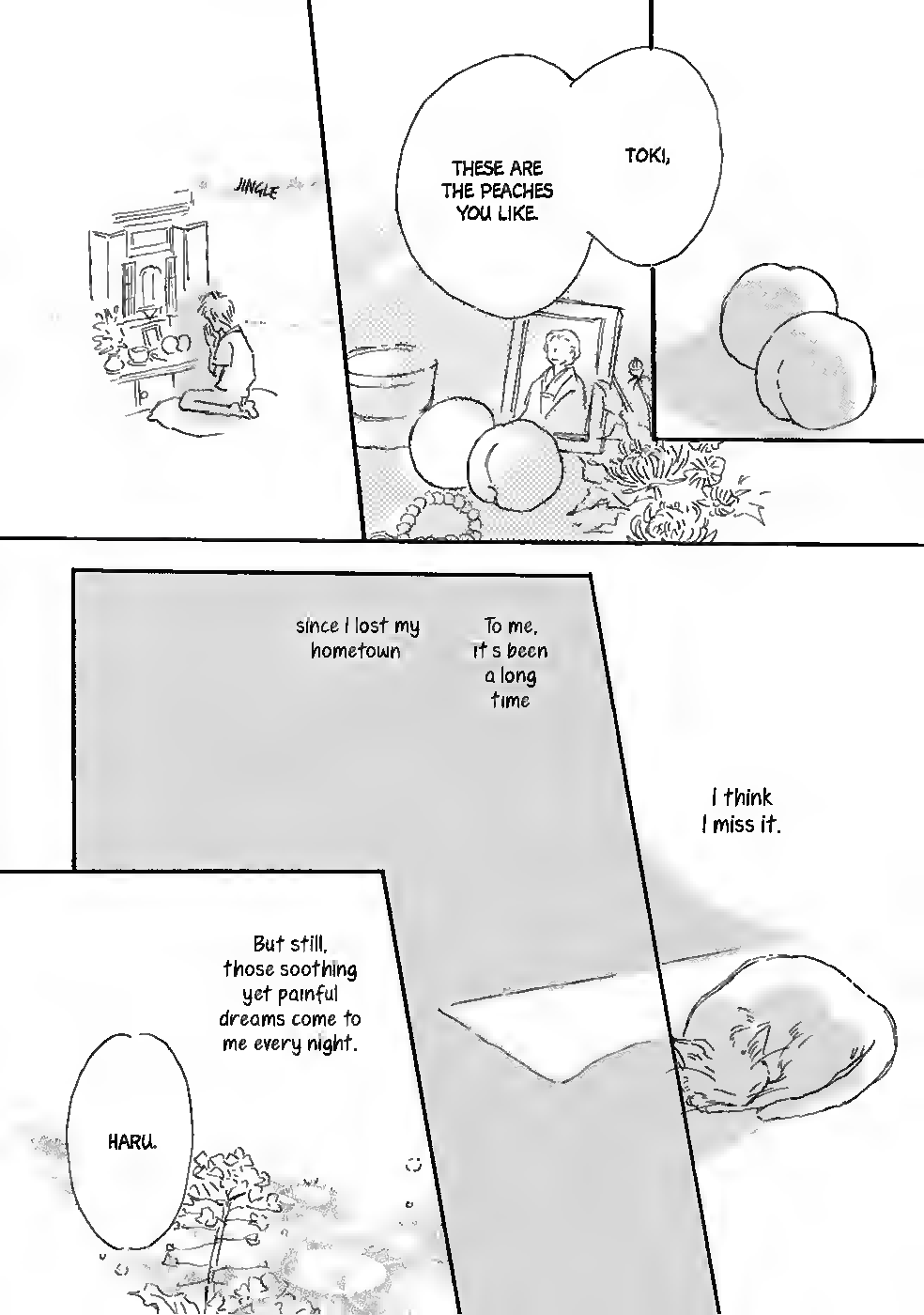
I now pass the time on my own doing whatever I want.

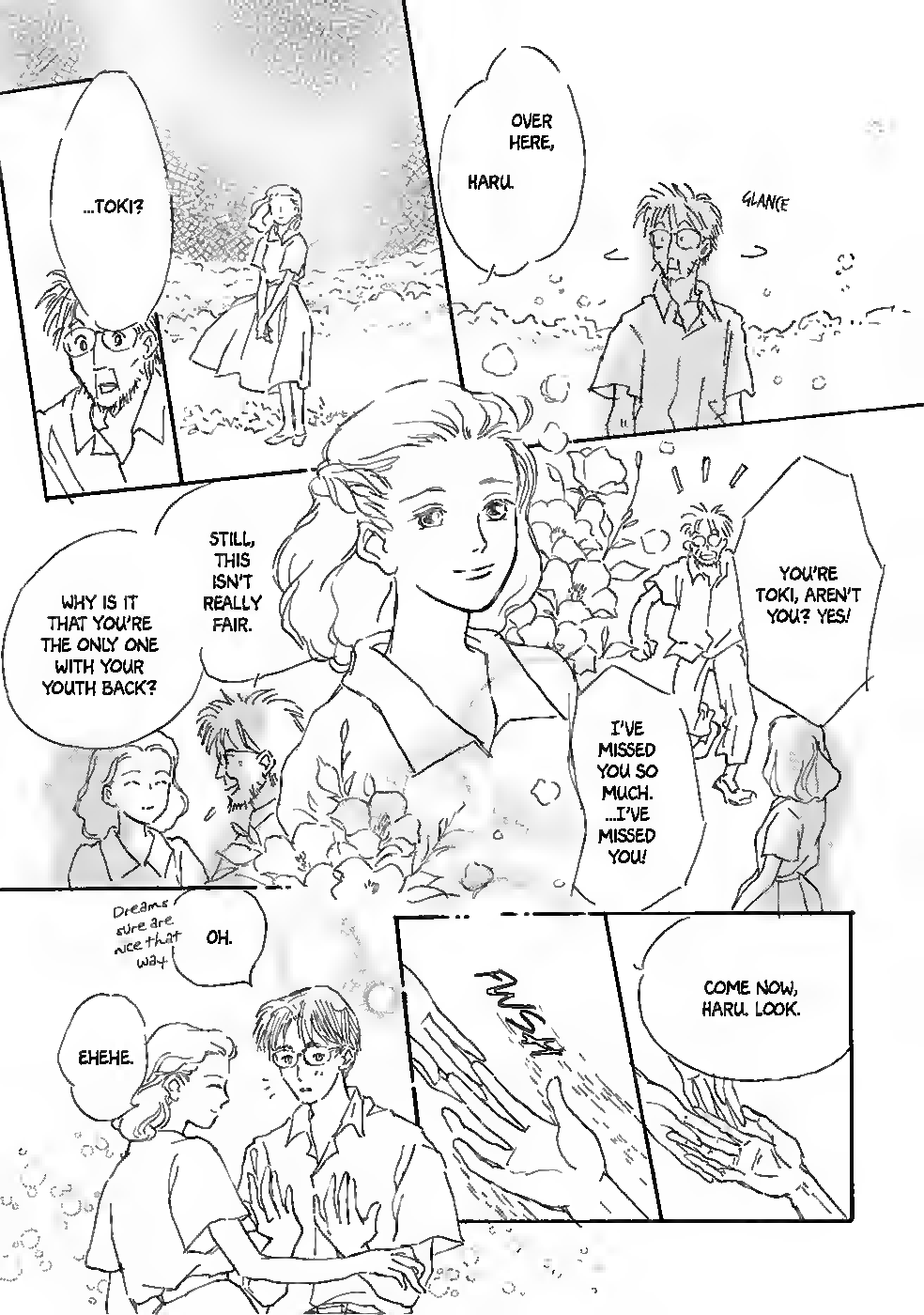

Every night,
these strange dreams.
It started around then, I think.
I began to have
TIME FOR BED, EH?
Yawn
DING
DING DING
DING DING
in the middle of a road.
I'm suddenly standing alone
HA HA HA!
and I hear laughter coming from underfoot.
The ground isn't paved,

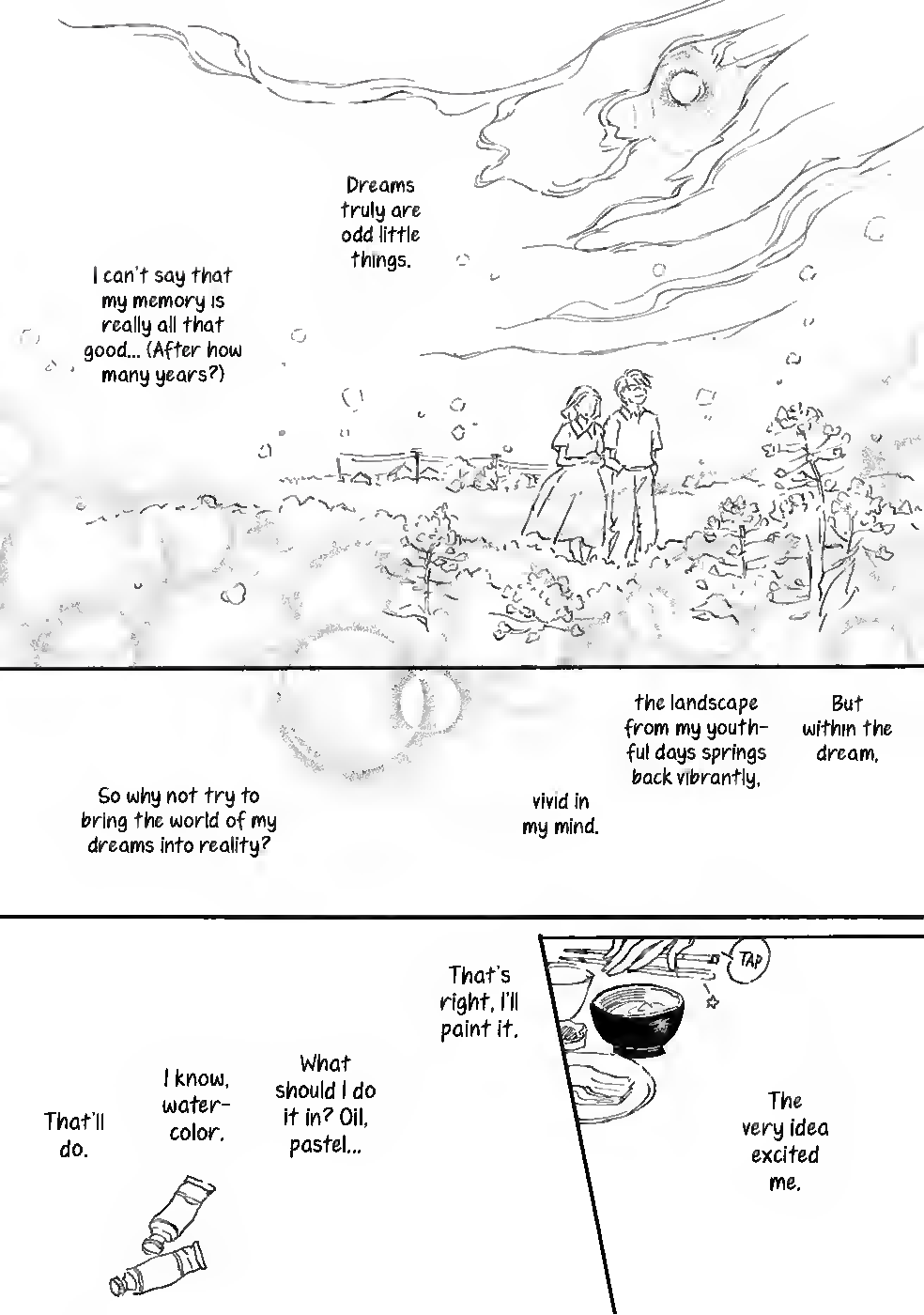
Oh yes, I know that place.
I know it quite well.
Even as my eyes start to well with nostalgia,
MEW
MM, THAT DREAM AGAIN?
It's around then that I wake up.
OH, MARY~
I'm filled with happiness and break out dancing.
My hometown.

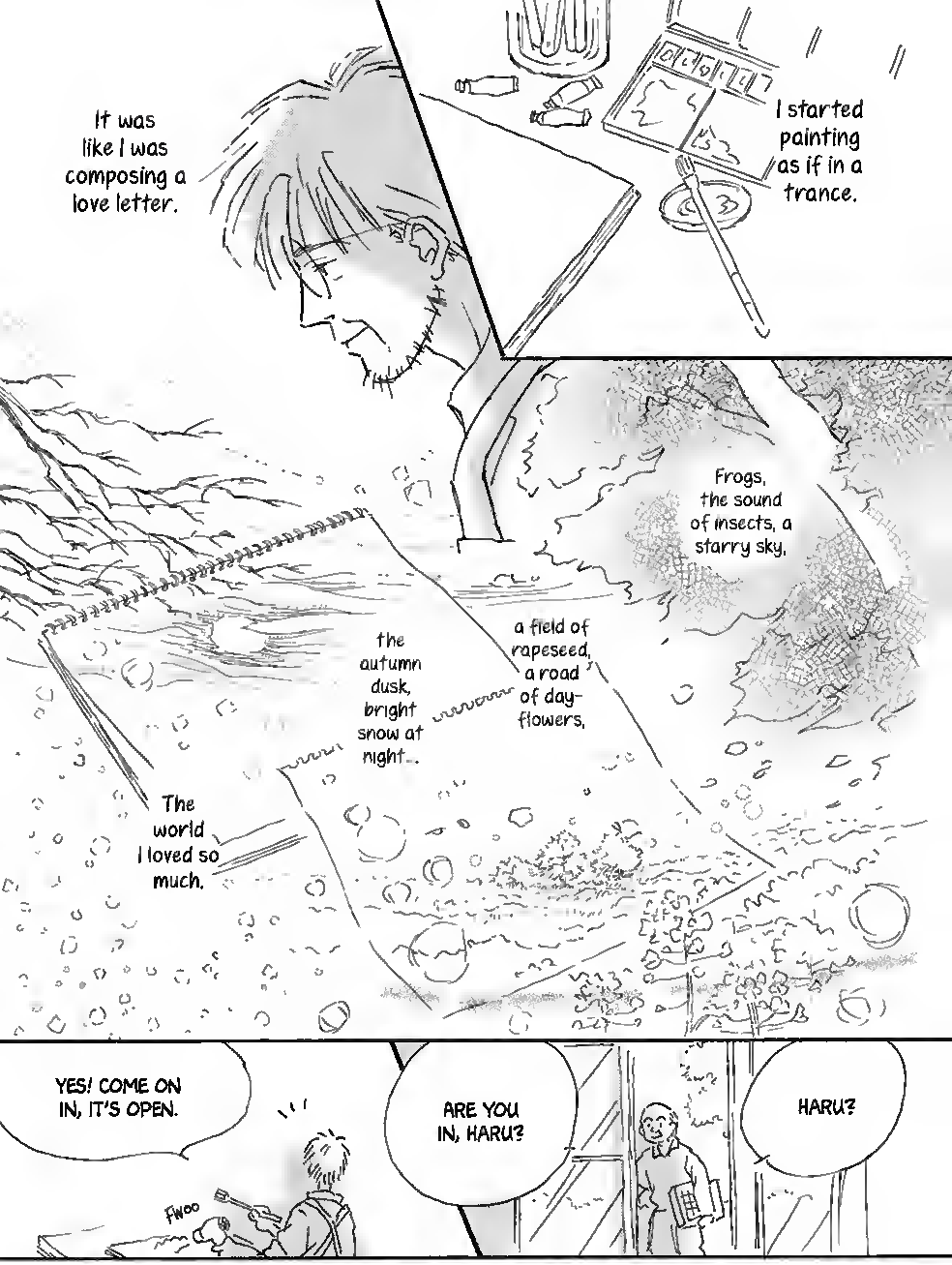

Thank you.
I haven't left this city since I was born.
What lovely weather today
Indeed
GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING.
Pow


when I was a boy
Almost nothing remains of the town as it was
That should mean that I'm still living in my hometown, but...
Maybe I should have had them heat up lunch for me
RUMBLE


JINGLE
TOKI,
THESE ARE THE PEACHES YOU LIKE.
since I lost my hometown
To me, it's been a long time
I think I miss it.
But still, those soothing yet painful dreams come to me every night.
HARU.

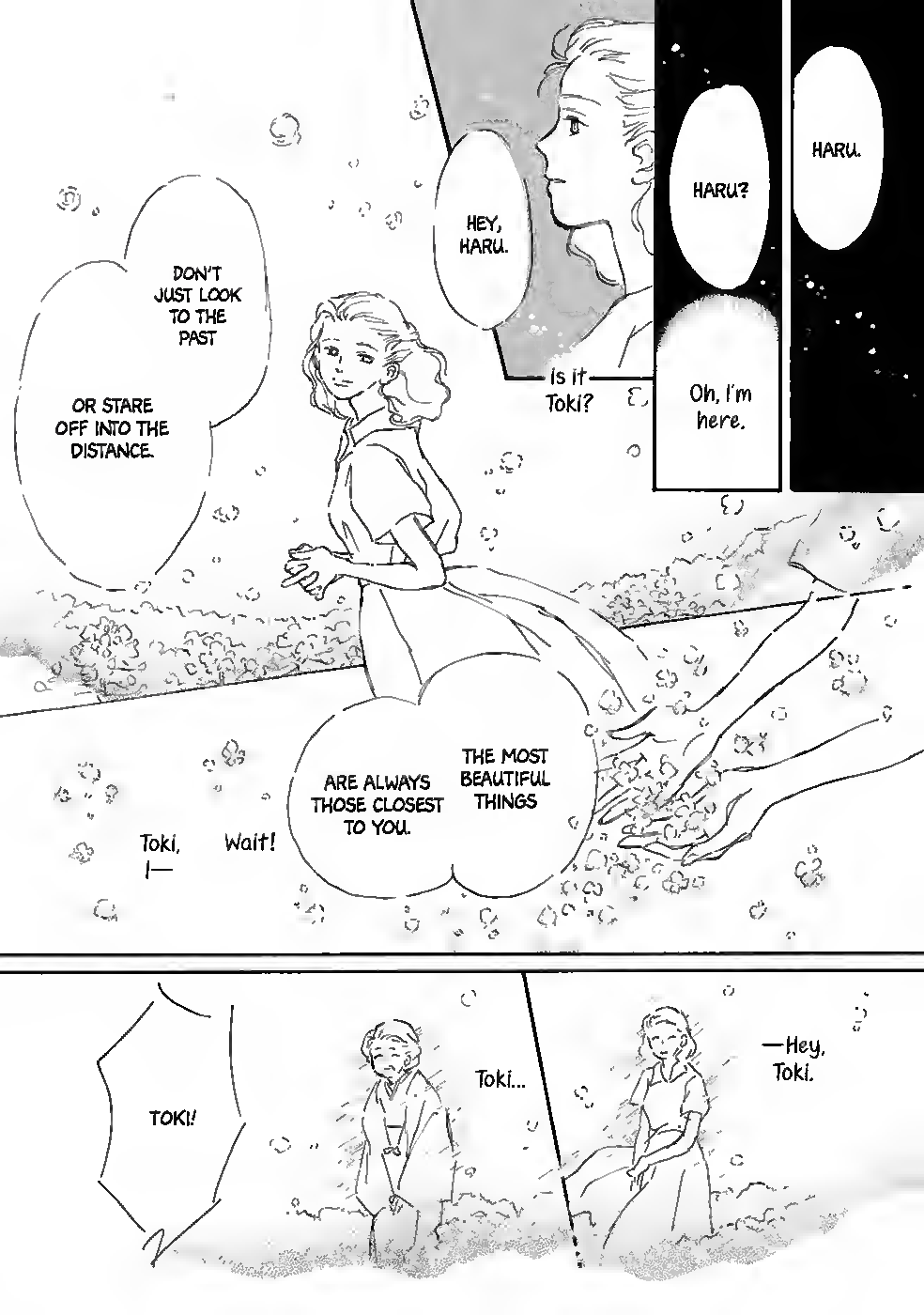

...TOKI?
OVER HERE, HARU.
GLANCE
YOU'RE TOKI, AREN'T YOU? YES!
I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH. ...I'VE MISSED YOU!
STILL, THIS ISN'T REALLY FAIR.
WHY IS IT THAT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WITH YOUR YOUTH BACK?
COME NOW, HARU. LOOK.
PUSH
OH.
Dreams sure are nice that way
EHEHE.


Dreams truly are odd little things.
I can't say that my memory is really all that good... (After how many years?)
But within the dream,
the landscape from my youthful days springs back vibrantly,
vivid in my mind.
So why not try to bring the world of my dreams into reality?
That's right, I'll paint it.
TAP
The very idea excited me.
What should I do it in? Oil, pastel...
I know, watercolor.
That'll do.


It was like I was composing a love letter.
I started painting as if in a trance.
Frogs, the sound of insects, a starry sky,
a field of rapeseed, a road of day-flowers,
the autumn dusk, bright snow at night...
The world I loved so much.
YES! COME ON IN, IT'S OPEN.
FWOO
ARE YOU IN, HARU?
HARU?

I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.
SOUNDS GOOD. TAKE A SEAT FOR NOW.
WANT TO HAVE A GAME? IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
SO I CAME BY.
WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND AT ALL LATELY,
GOOD TO SEE YOU LOOKING WELL.
SMILE
HAHAHA. I'M A total AMATEUR. AN ART SHOW, REALLY?
HEY, HOW ABOUT YOU DO AN ART SHOW?
...WOW, I WASN'T EXPECTING THIS...!
I KNOW THIS PLACE. ...MY NOW, WHAT A SIGHT.
SWIPE
WHAT A SIGHT... THIS PICTURE IS GREAT, HARU.
NO, NO, THINK LOW-KEY. WHAT IF YOU USE THE GALLERY AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER?
Yeah, that's it. I'll go arrange it tomorrow! I'll have to write a referral letter, too
Um, Shige?

I'M FROM PUBLISHER S.
OH?
But the show had an unforeseen ripple effect,
I opened my first, modest exhibition.
—And just like that (and somewhat over my protests),
Eek!
So for the book... I'll need one more page!
as I stood in a state of shock.
and we were suddenly talking about an art book release
My days grew busy,
and as the pressure mounted
Hey, I heard you're putting out a book!
I got completely overwhelmed.
Flop
took an about-face
My carefree life as a retired widower
The interview with your local newspaper Etc.
Your meeting with the producer.


HEY, HARU.
Is it Toki?
HARU?
Oh, I'm here.
HARU.
DON'T JUST LOOK TO THE PAST
OR STARE OFF INTO THE DISTANCE.
Toki, I—
Wait!
ARE ALWAYS THOSE CLOSEST TO YOU.
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS
TOKI!
Toki...
—Hey, Toki.

When I returned from the dream,
the moonlight had become a set of stairs
.....
The most beautiful things are always those closest to you.
...TOKI?
that led up to the skylight.

The moon lit up the town clearly.
When I closed my eyes,
it was almost as if I could smell the flowers that couldn't possibly be there.

been there.

It has always

How is it that I hadn't noticed?

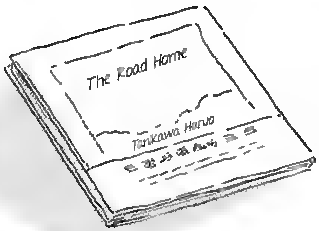
It's always lived there

inside of me, ever vivid.

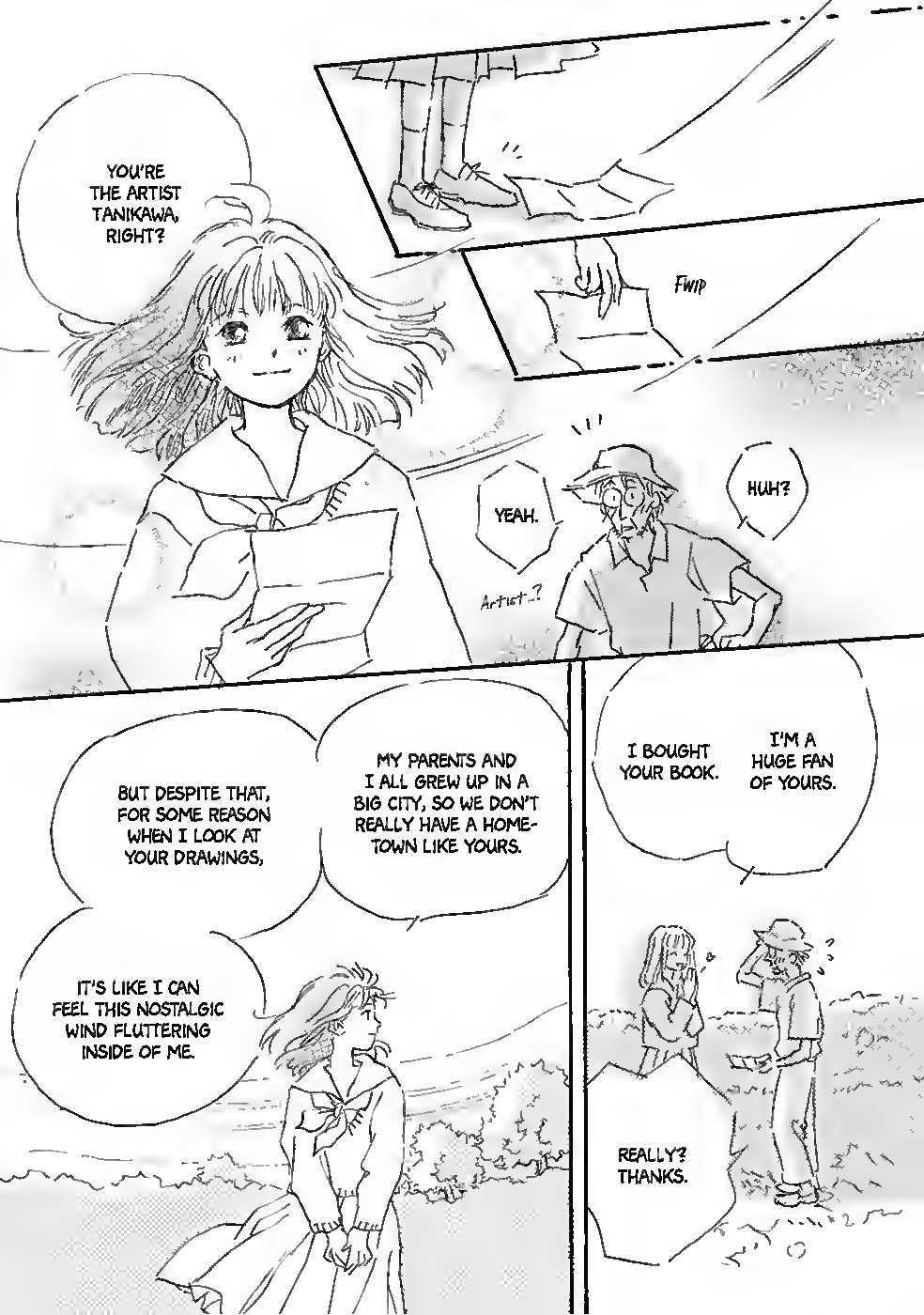
And so

I titled my art book "The Road Home"

and sent it out into the world.

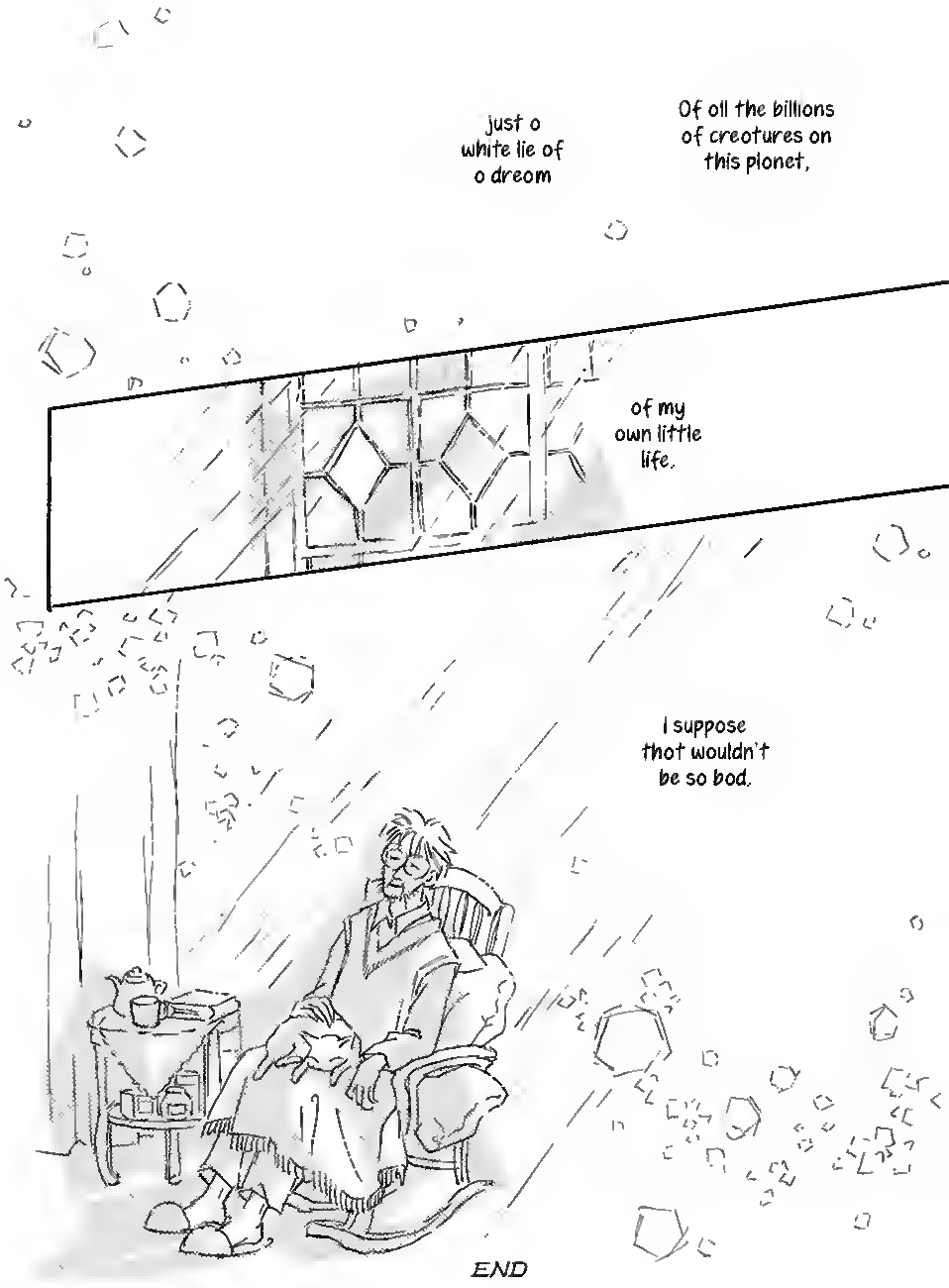


I began to receive letters by way of my publisher.
Soon enough,
The letters were from all sorts of readers,
of all ages, and across many countries.
SLEEPY
OH NO, THE LETTER!
SLUMP...
AU+TAG


YOU'RE THE ARTIST TANIKAWA, RIGHT?
FWIP
YEAH.
Artist...?
HUH?
I BOUGHT YOUR BOOK.
I'M A HUGE FAN OF YOURS.
REALLY? THANKS.
MY PARENTS AND I ALL GREW UP IN A BIG CITY, SO WE DON'T REALLY HAVE A HOME-TOWN LIKE YOURS.
BUT DESPITE THAT, FOR SOME REASON WHEN I LOOK AT YOUR DRAWINGS,
IT'S LIKE I CAN FEEL THIS NOSTALGIC WIND FLUTTERING INSIDE OF ME.

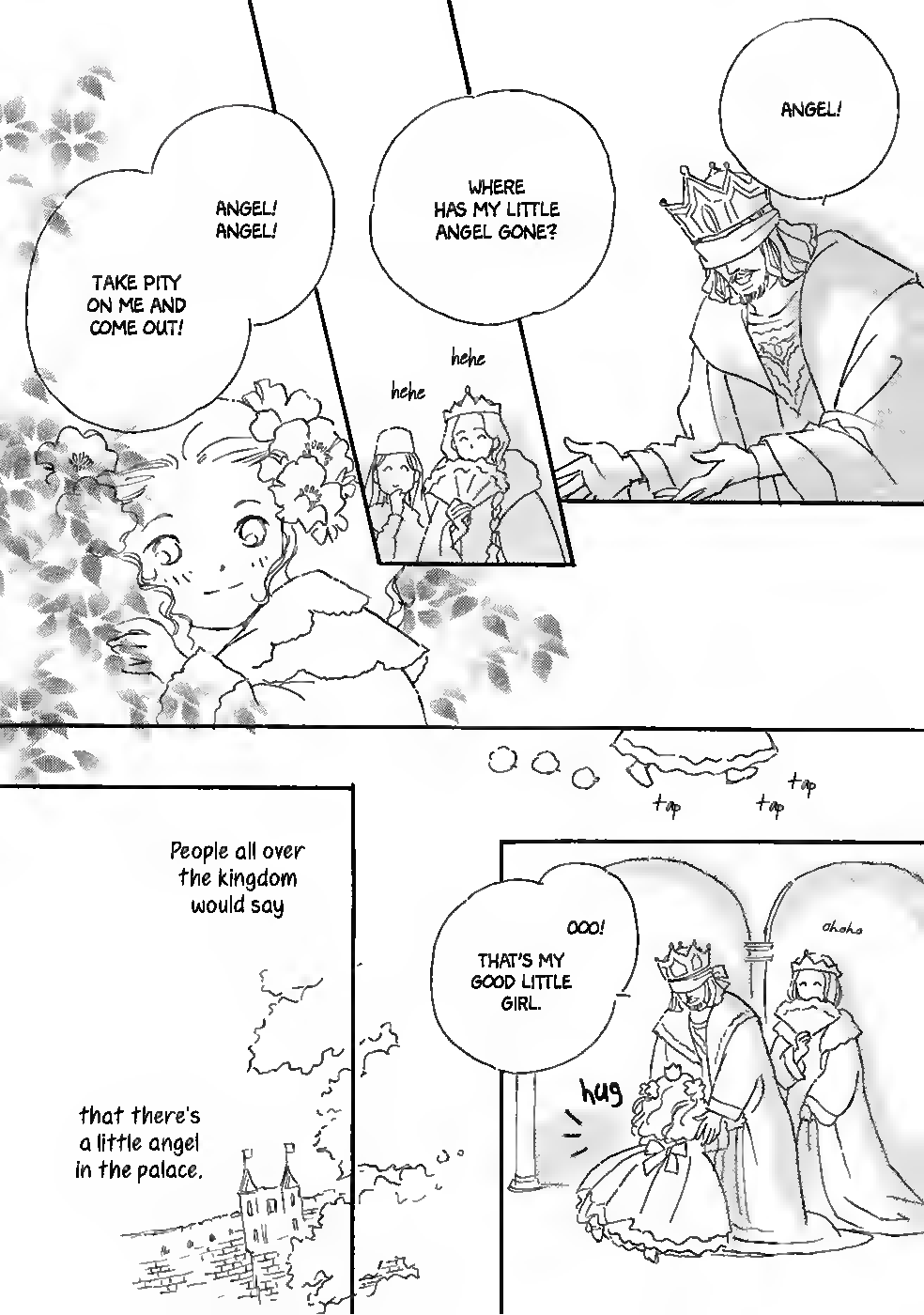
—NO,
BUT IF I AM, IS THIS MY DREAM? OR YOURS?
MAYBE I'M ACTUALLY DREAMING RIGHT NOW?
THIS PLACE, IT'S LIKE I'M INSIDE ONE OF YOUR PAINTINGS
I HAVE FAITH
THAT THIS ROAD WILL LEAD YOU TO THE PLACE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, A PLACE WAITING JUST FOR YOU.
IS YOUR HOMETOWN.
THIS HERE

Naw ! always come across sameane an my walks.
the tawn s population grew quite a bit.
And just like that,
ar an ald friend.
Be it a new face,
Is all this just a fabrication of my mind?
YO, HARU. YOU WORKING ON A NEW ART BOOK?
HEY, SHIGE.
Look at the flowers!
Wow!


just a white lie of a dream
Of all the billions of creatures on this planet,
of my own little life.
I suppose that wouldn't be so bad.
END

Lovely Strange Dark
YORU NO DOUWA
"EVENING FAIRY-TALES"
BY KONNO KITA
CHAPTER 2
Translation Kalendel
Editing Cpt Mischief
QC Ianu
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

GARDEN


ANGEL!
WHERE HAS MY LITTLE ANGEL GONE?
ANGEL! ANGEL!
TAKE PITY ON ME AND COME OUT!
hehe
hehe
tap
tap
tap
People all over the kingdom would say
that there's a little angel in the palace.
OOO!
THAT'S MY GOOD LITTLE GIRL.
ahaha
hug

Though it was a tiny kingdom,

it was wealthy and peaceful,

and the king was beloved by his people.

The king and queen had one daughter.

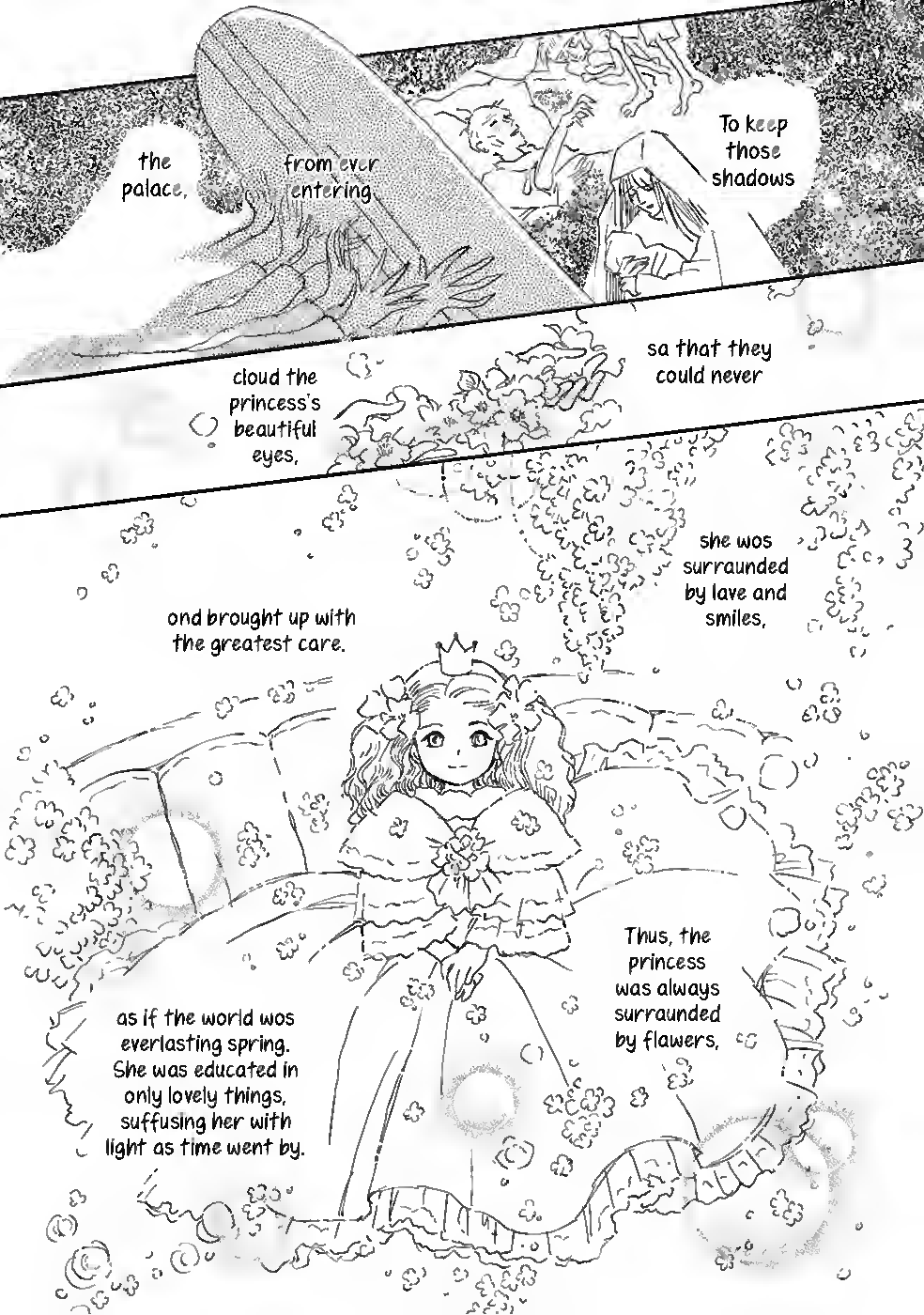
The little princess was popular in the palace,

and everyone there couldn't help but love her angelic innocence.

However,

just as shadows are cast wherever the sunlight touches,

so too did this world have parts that weren't sunny and pleasant.

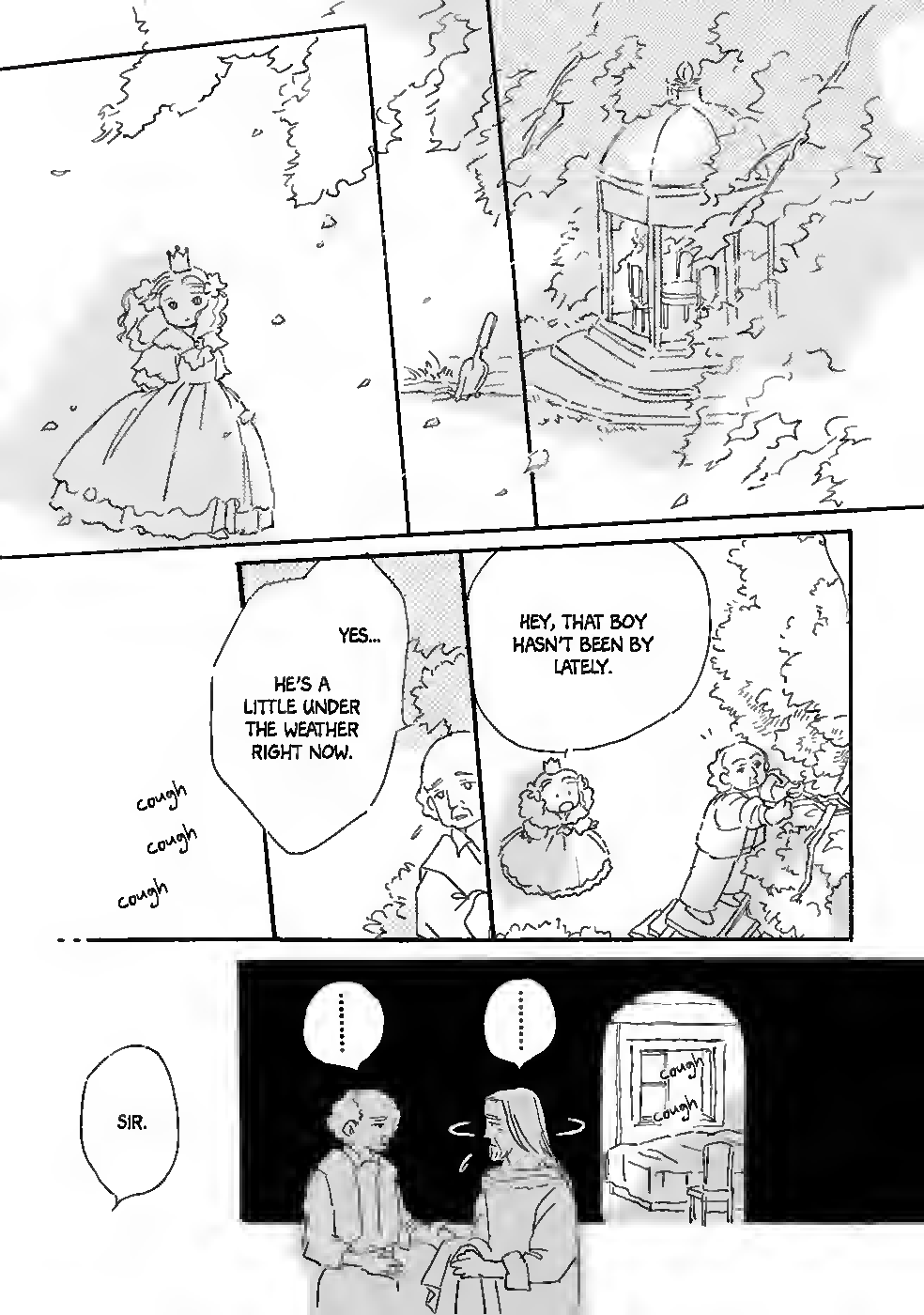

the palace,
from ever entering.
To keep those shadows
so that they could never
cloud the princess's beautiful eyes,
she was surrounded by love and smiles,
and brought up with the greatest care.
Thus, the princess was always surrounded by flowers,
as if the world was everlasting spring. She was educated in only lovely things, suffusing her with light as time went by.

NOW, MY PRINCESS, HERE'S A PRESENT FROM YOUR PAPA.
I WONDER IF YOU'LL LIKE IT.
IT'S OUTSIDE?
BEHOLD.
THIS IS YOUR GARDEN.
ALL OF THIS IS MINE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THANK YOU, PAPA!
hug
LOOK AT YOU, RUN-NING!
YOU'LL TRIP!
tap tap

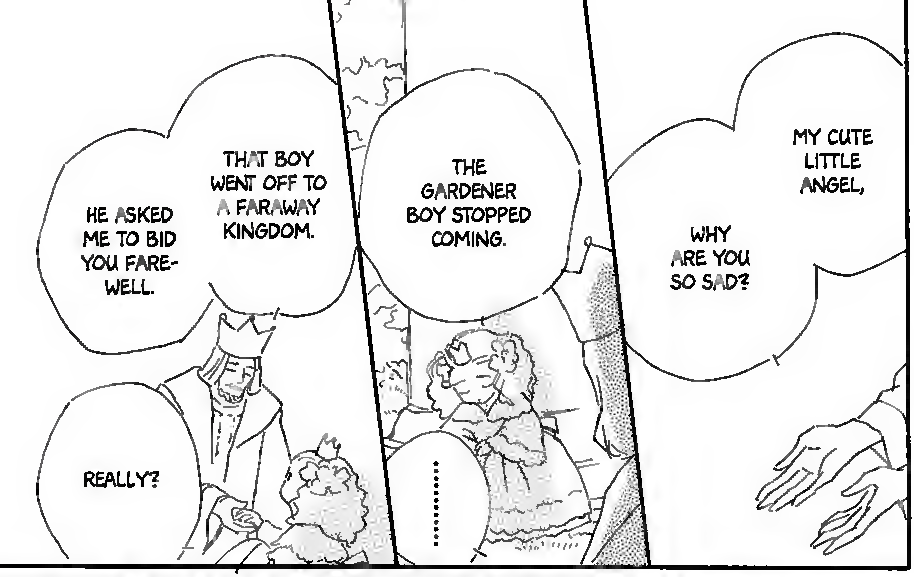
rustle
PEEP
tweet
peep
peep
WHO'S IN THERE?
Pop
I- I'M A GARDENER.
OH! THEN YOU'RE MY GARDENER!
HEY, WHAT'S THIS FLOWER CALLED?

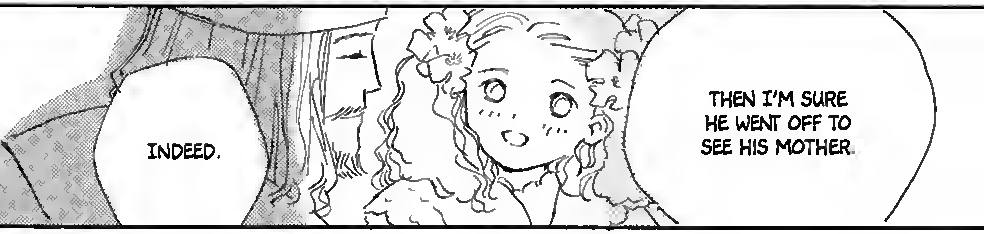
CAN I PLANT THESE SEEDS?
WELL, OUR LITTLE PRINCESS DOES LOVE FLOWERS AND PLANTS.
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S REALLY TAKEN TO THE GARDEN.
I FIRST MET YOU A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.
YOU KNOW, YOUR HIGH-NESS,
YOUR HANDS WILL GET DIRTY.
OH, I DON'T MIND.
...HUH?
WHEN SHE SUDDENLY LEFT FOR ANOTHER KINGDOM. YOU MUST HAVE REALLY MISSED HER.
SO YOU DIDN'T GO WITH HER?
WAS YOUR WET NURSE.
MY MOTHER

.....
YOU MUST MISS HER.
UH— SURE, THAT'S RIGHT.
THEY SAID IT'S A WONDERFUL PLACE WITH WARM WEATHER. RIGHT?
ANOTHER KINGDOM...?
I LIKE YOU.
BUT I'M GLAD YOU STAYED HERE IN THIS KINGDOM.
DOES IT HURT SOMEWHERE?
WHAT IS IT?
squeeze


HEY, THAT BOY HASN'T BEEN BY LATELY.
YES... HE'S A LITTLE UNDER THE WEATHER RIGHT NOW.
cough
cough
cough
SIR.
cough
cough

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.
WHAT IS IT?
YOU CAN ASK ME FOR ANYTHING.
Now, now, don't get up.
WHEN I DIE,
I WANT YOU
TO BURY ME IN THE PRINCESS'S GARDEN.
TH-THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION! I'D BE SACKED IF I DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
PLEASE, SIR.
It was the boy's last wish.
After agonizing over it, the head gardener decided to grant it.
He snuck in during the dead of night and secretly buried the boy's remains in the very corner of the princess's garden.


MY CUTE LITTLE ANGEL,
WHY ARE YOU SO SAD?
THE GARDENER BOY STOPPED COMING.
.....
THAT BOY WENT OFF TO A FARAWAY KINGDOM.
HE ASKED ME TO BID YOU FARE-WELL.
REALLY?

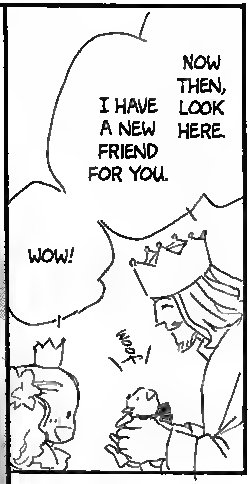


However,

one day an even greater tragedy struck the palace.

and it softened the loneliness she felt when she thought of the gardener boy.

The princess was completely enchanted with the puppy.



The entire kingdom was wrapped in grief,

including the king and princess.

The queen suddenly grew ill and passed away.

But the king's grief was so great that his heart didn't have any room left to worry about his daughter.

The palace servants were busy with funeral preparations,

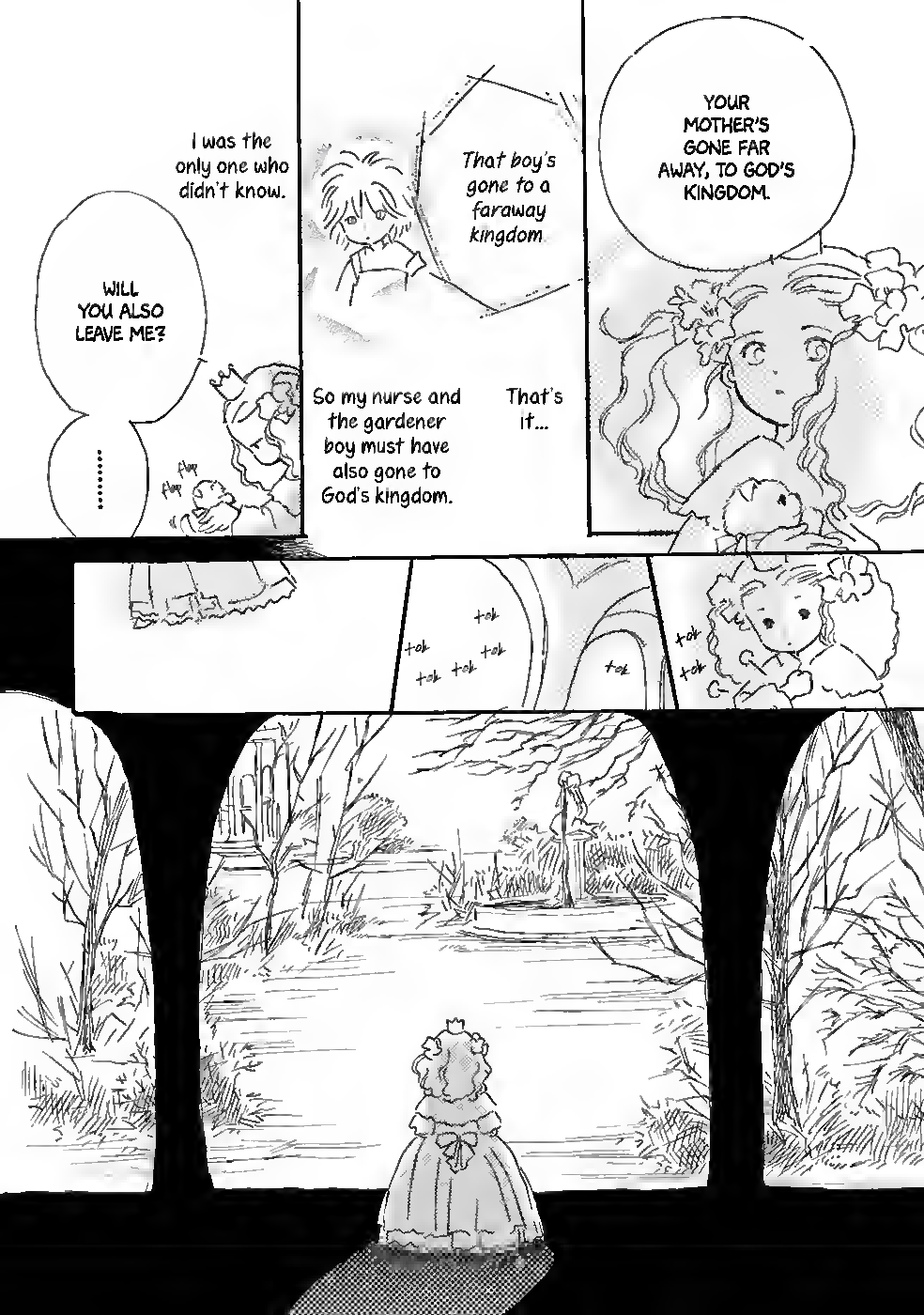
so the princess was left all alone in the giant palace.

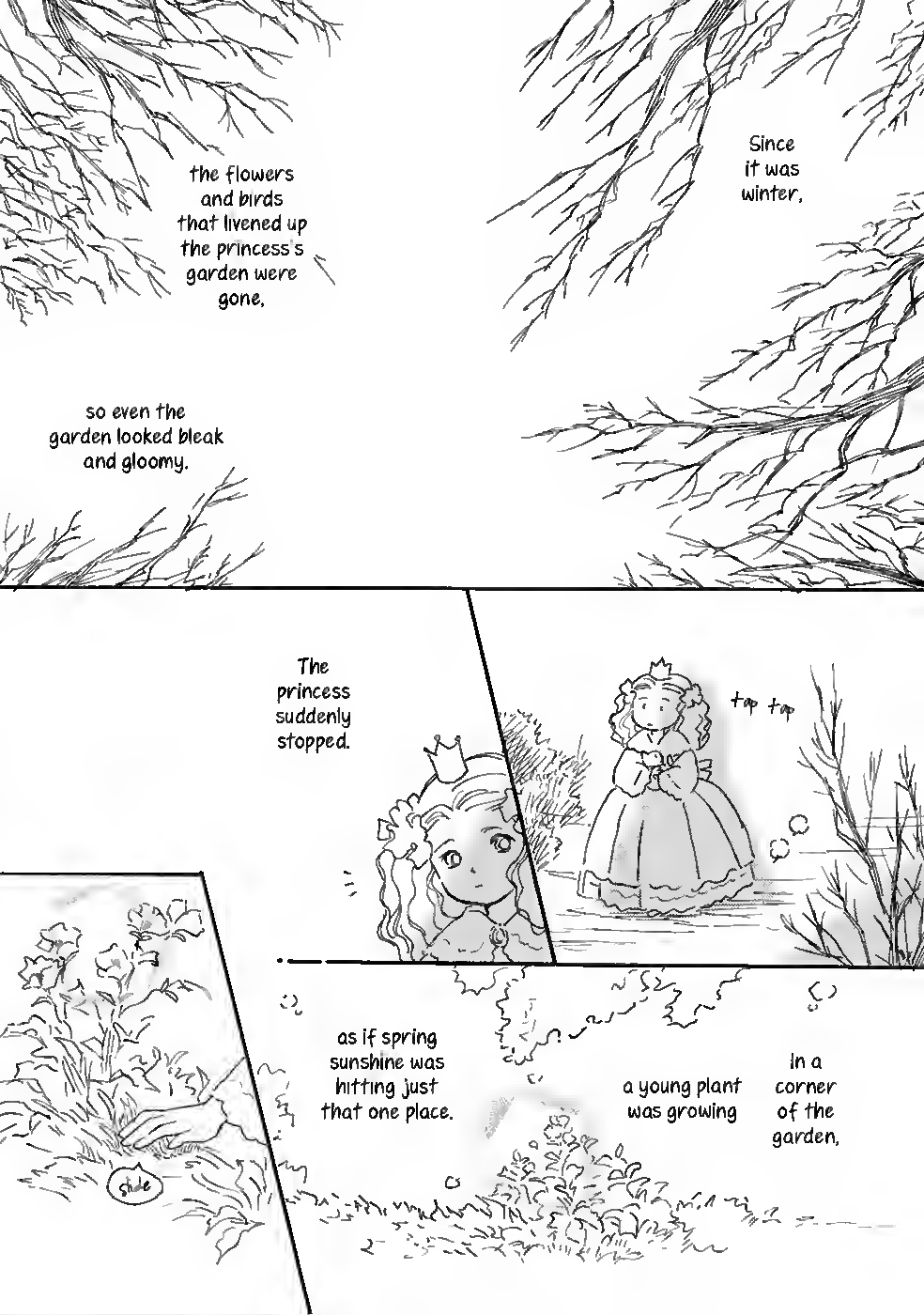
alone

tap tap tap

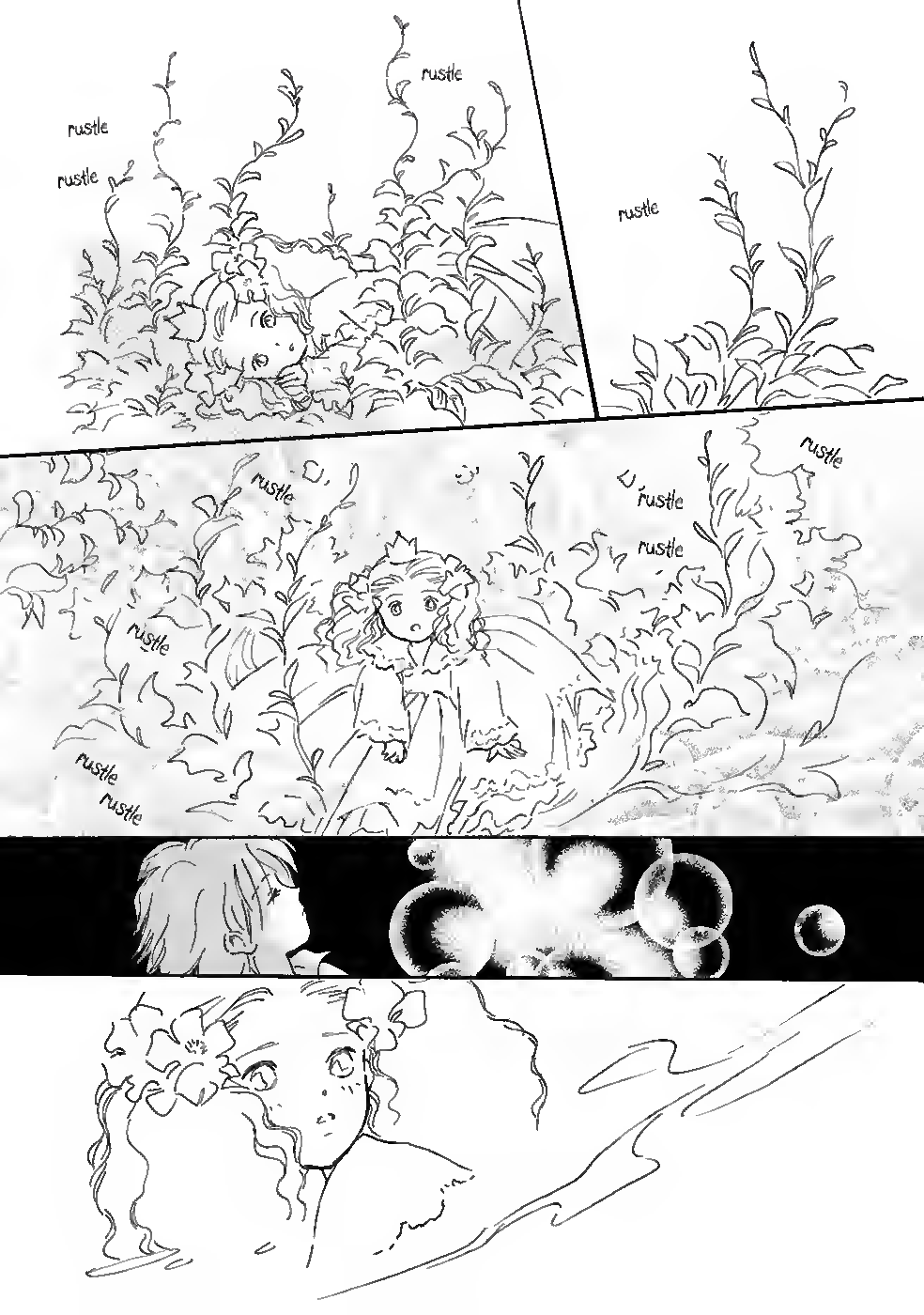
tap tap tap tap tap

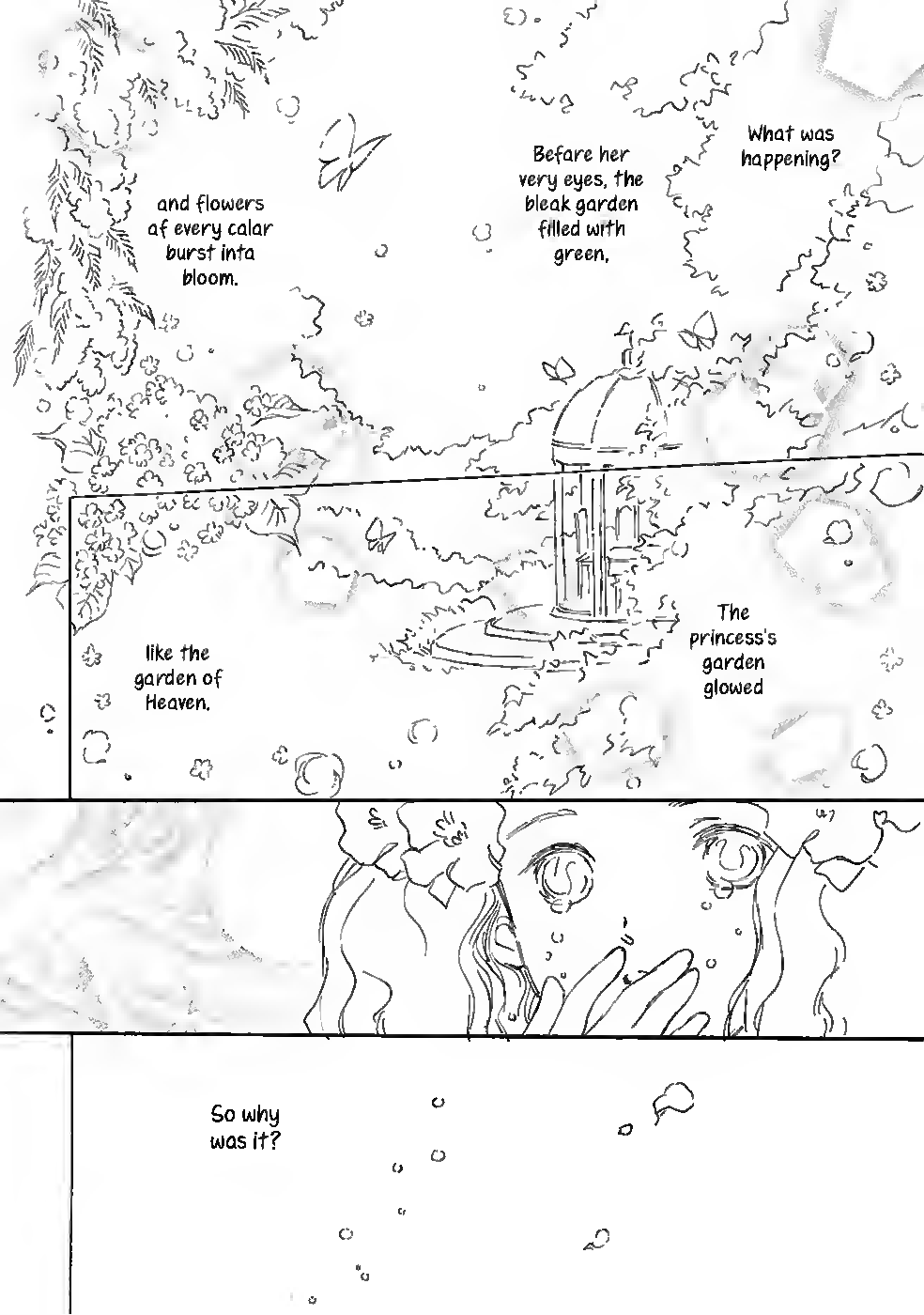
...MONK?
hug
YES, THERE MUST BE. IT MUST HURT.
I THINK I'M SICK.
WHAT'S WRONG, YOUR HIGHNESS?
tok tok
THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY STUFFY IN HERE.
I WON'T GET TO SEE HER AGAIN?
IS THAT FAR?
THE QUEEN HAS GONE OFF TO GOD'S KINGDOM.
YOU'VE NEVER FELT GRIEF BEFORE, HAVE YOU?
EVEN THIS LITTLE ONE.
whine
ME,
YOU,
NO, IT'S A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE GOES EVENTUALLY.

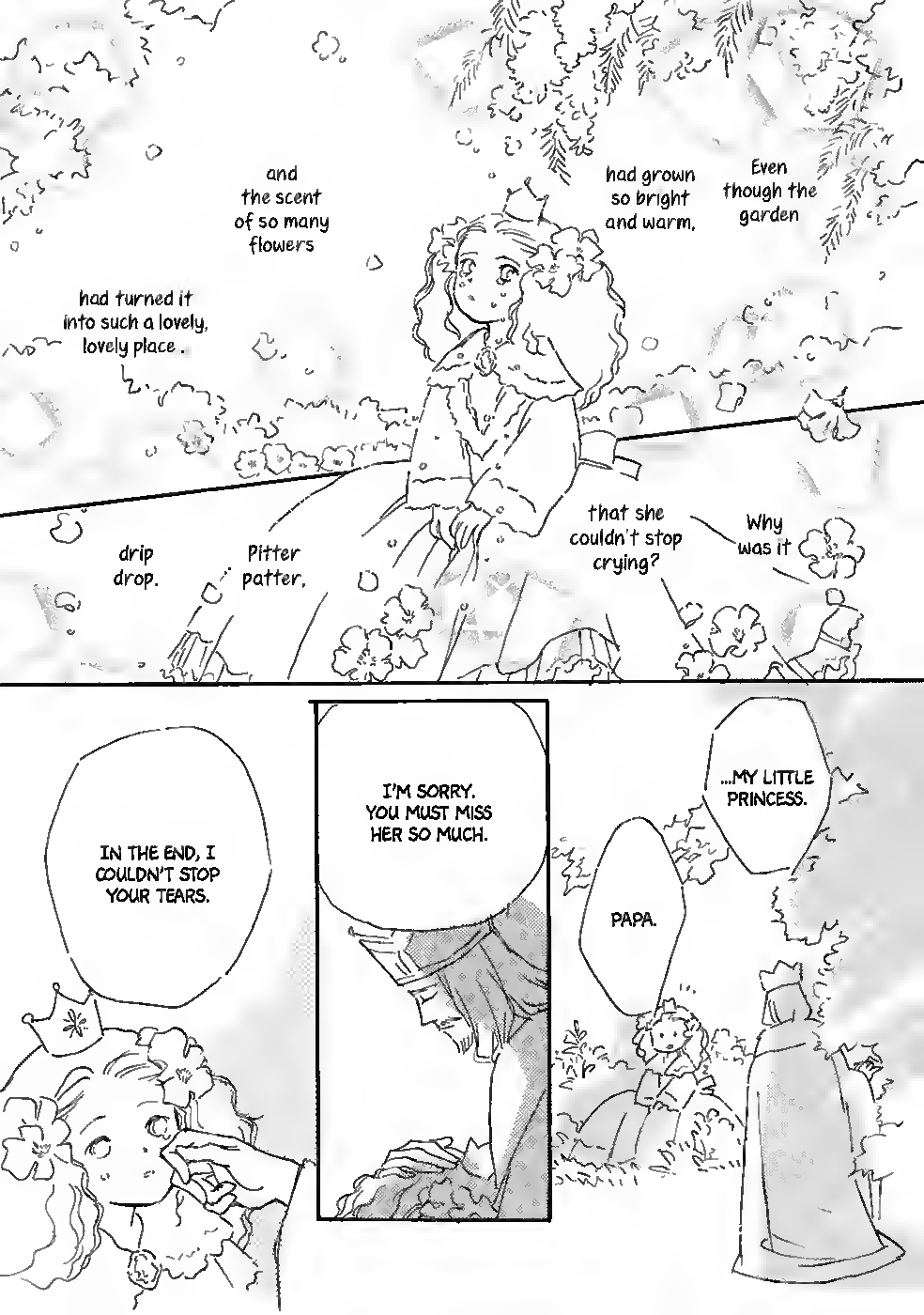

YOUR MOTHER'S GONE FAR AWAY, TO GOD'S KINGDOM.
That's it...
That boy's gone to a faraway kingdom.
So my nurse and the gardener boy must have also gone to God's kingdom.
I was the only one who didn't know.
WILL YOU ALSO LEAVE ME?
.....
tap tap
tok
tok
tok
tok
tok
tok
tok
tok

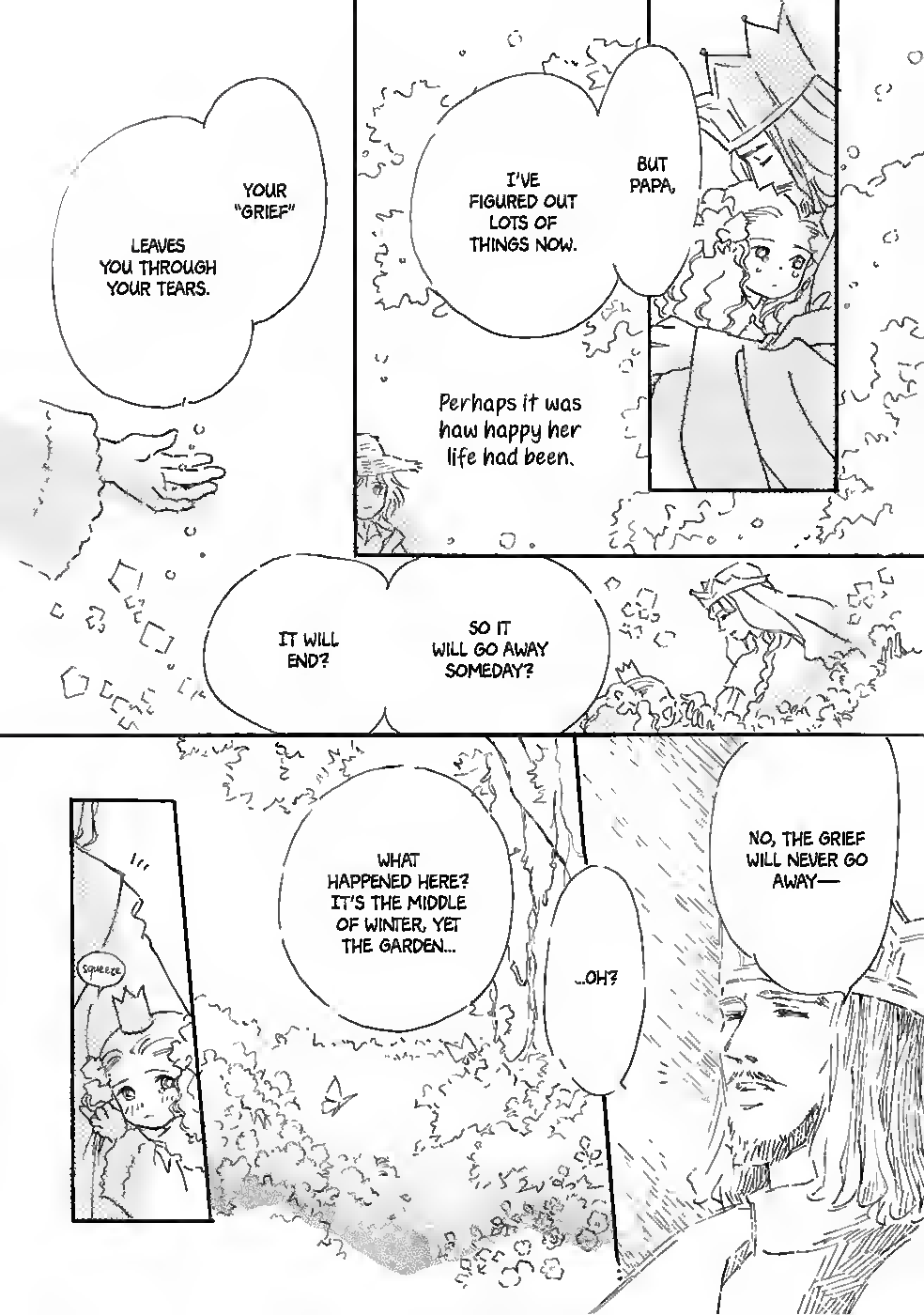

the flowers and birds that livened up the princess's garden were gone,
Since it was winter,
so even the garden looked bleak and gloomy.
The princess suddenly stopped.
tap tap
as if spring sunshine was hitting just that one place.
a young plant was growing
In a corner of the garden,
She

...IT'S WARM.


rustle
rustle
rustle
rustle
rustle
rustle
rustle
rustle
rustle
rustle
rustle
rustle


What was happening?
Before her very eyes, the bleak garden filled with green,
and flowers af every calar burst inta bloom.
The princess's garden glowed
like the garden of Heaven.
So why was it?


and the scent of so many flowers
had grown so bright and warm,
Even though the garden
had turned it into such a lovely, lovely place.
drip drop.
Pitter patter,
that she couldn't stop crying?
Why was it
IN THE END, I COULDN'T STOP YOUR TEARS.
I'M SORRY. YOU MUST MISS HER SO MUCH.
PAPA.
...MY LITTLE PRINCESS.

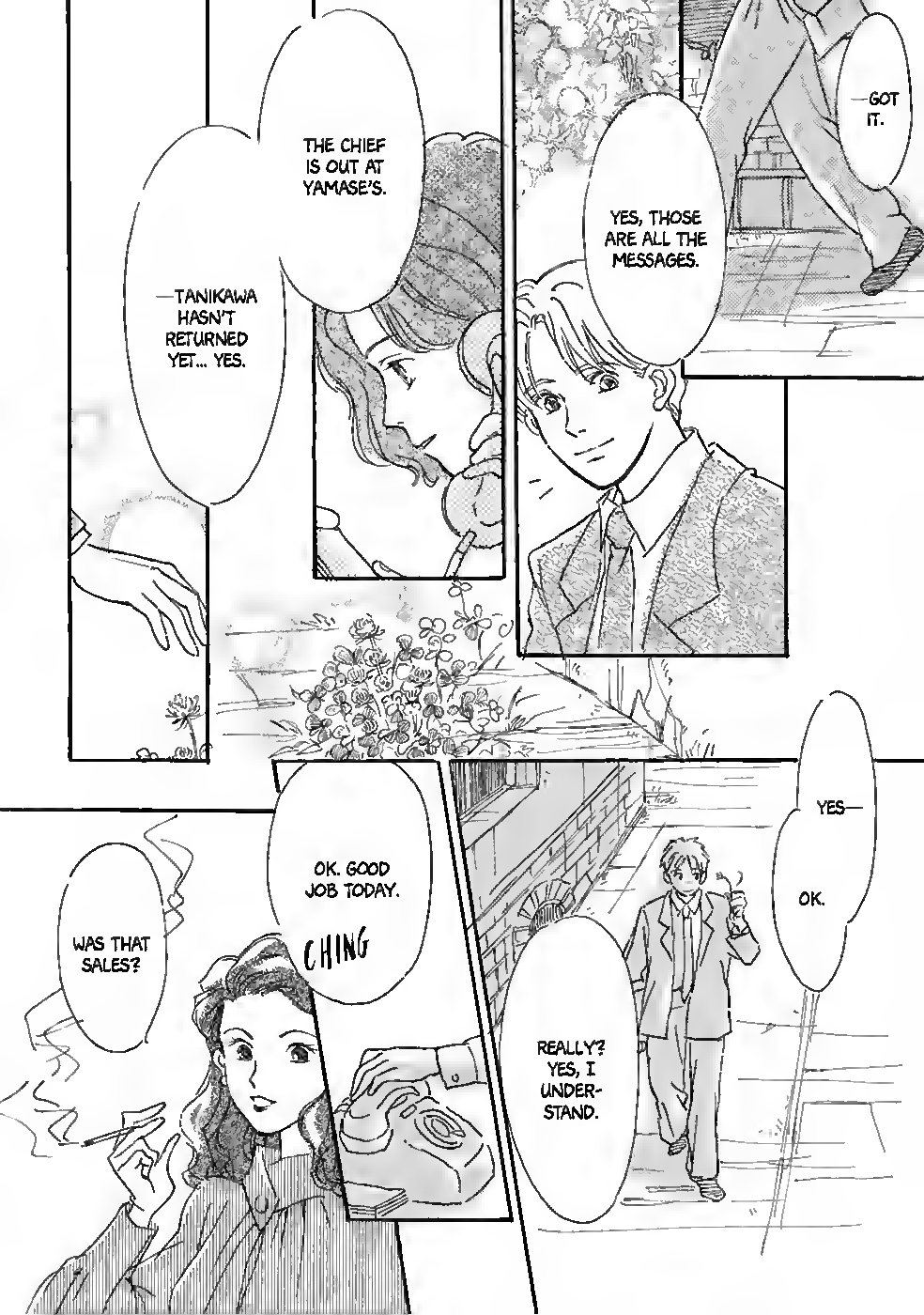

YOUR "GRIEF"
LEAVES YOU THROUGH YOUR TEARS.
I'VE FIGURED OUT LOTS OF THINGS NOW.
BUT PAPA,
Perhaps it was haw happy her life had been.
IT WILL END?
SO IT WILL GO AWAY SOMEDAY?
NO, THE GRIEF WILL NEVER GO AWAY—
WHAT HAPPENED HERE? IT'S THE MIDDLE OF WINTER, YET THE GARDEN...
...OH?
!!!
SQUEEZE

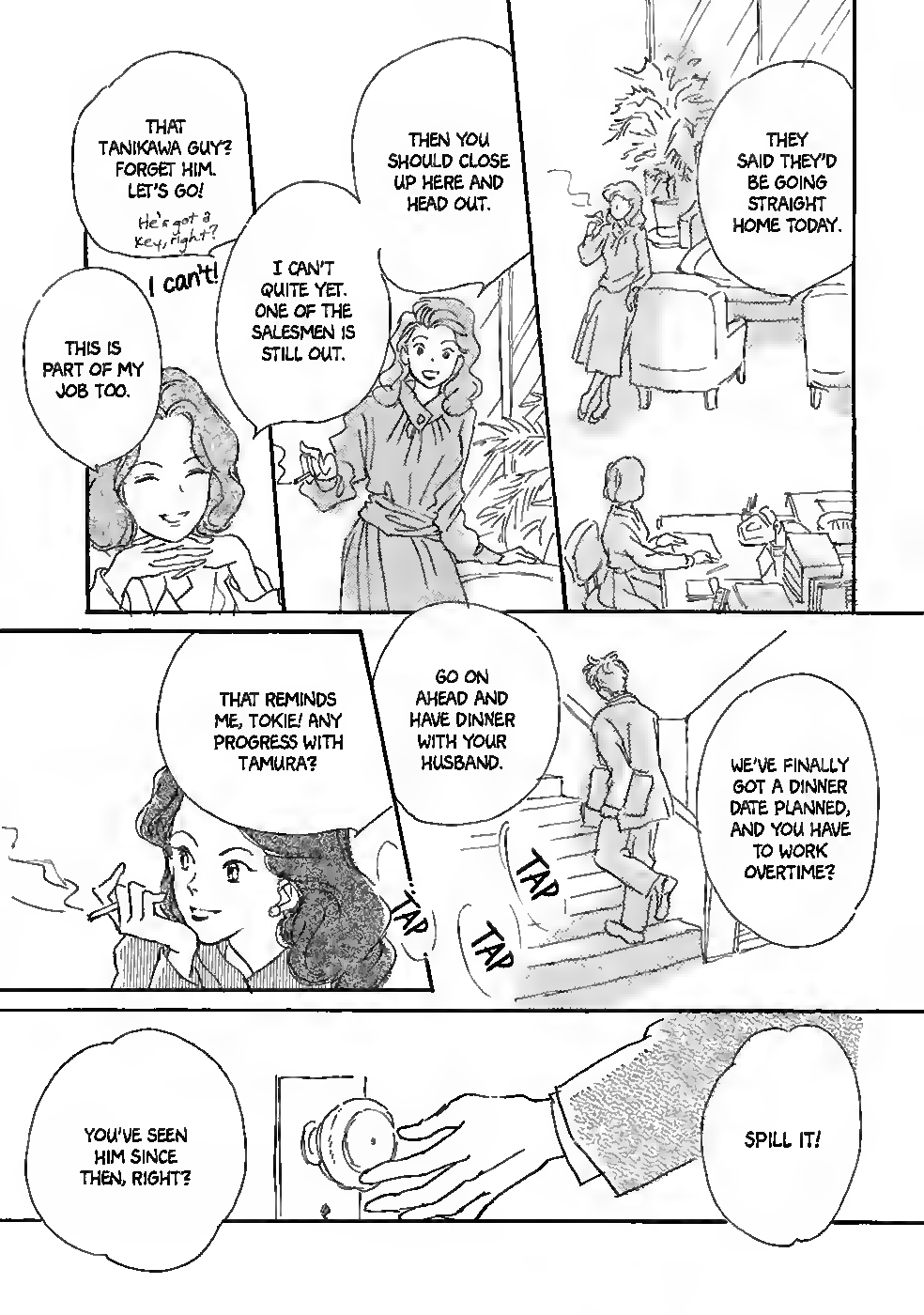
LISTEN WELL, MY PRINCESS.
GRIEF ISN'T SOMETHING THAT ENDS.
IT COULD BE... THERE'S NO WAY TO BE SURE. IT WAS FROM SOMEONE WHO LOVES YOU.
FROM MOMMY?
PERHAPS IT WAS A GIFT FOR YOU, MY PRINCESS?
BUT
HAPPINESS IS ALSO SOMETHING
WHICH HAS NO END.

END

Lovely Strange Dark
YORU NO DOUWA
"EVENING FAIRY-TALES"
BY KONNO KITA
CHAPTER 3
Translation Kalendel
Editing Cpt Mischief
QC Ianu
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

Beyer's Waltz


—GOT IT.
YES, THOSE ARE ALL THE MESSAGES.
THE CHIEF IS OUT AT YAMASE'S.
—TANIKAWA HASN'T RETURNED YET... YES.
YES—
OK.
REALLY? YES, I UNDER-STAND.
OK. GOOD JOB TODAY.
CHING
WAS THAT SALES?


THAT TANIKAWA GUY? FORGET HIM. LET'S GO!
He's got a key, right?
I can't!
THIS IS PART OF MY JOB TOO.
I CAN'T QUITE YET. ONE OF THE SALESMEN IS STILL OUT.
THEN YOU SHOULD CLOSE UP HERE AND HEAD OUT.
THEY SAID THEY'D BE GOING STRAIGHT HOME TODAY.
THAT REMINDS ME, TOKIE! ANY PROGRESS WITH TAMURA?
TAP
GO ON AHEAD AND HAVE DINNER WITH YOUR HUSBAND.
TAP
TAP
WE'VE FINALLY GOT A DINNER DATE PLANNED, AND YOU HAVE TO WORK OVERTIME?
YOU'VE SEEN HIM SINCE THEN, RIGHT?
SPILL IT!

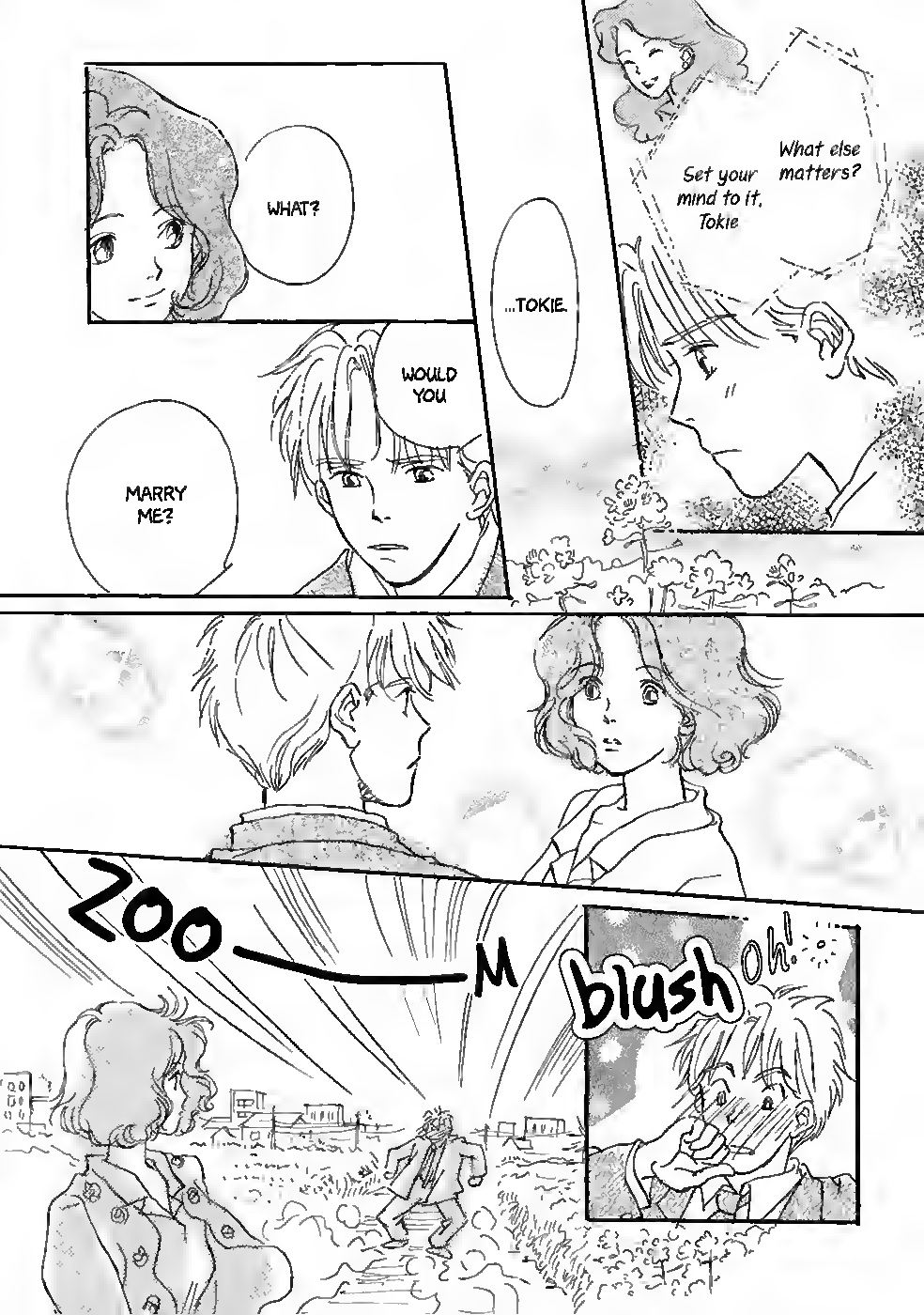
HE ASKED ME OUT TO SEE A MOVIE.
YEAH...
YOU HAVE TO PUT SOME EFFORT INTO IT TOO.
AND HERE HE FINALLY SHOWED SOME INTEREST IN YOU.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
WELL, THE MOVIE WAS GOOD.
AND? HOW'D IT GO?
PSH
SET YOUR MIND TO IT, TOKIE.
THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE.
YOU'RE STARTING TO GET UP THERE IN YEARS.

I HEARD THAT TAMURA'S
GOING TO OPEN HIS OWN BUSINESS SOON.
WHAT ELSE MATTERS? IF YOU LET THIS ONE ESCAPE, YOU WON'T GET ANOTHER CHANCE.
AREN'T YOU THE ONE ALWAYS GOING, "IF ONLY I HADN'T GOTTEN MARRIED"?
THAT IS THAT AND THIS IS THIS!
SURE, SURE.
THINK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE.
WELL, PHOOEY.
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO MEET UP WITH MY HUSBAND.
SURE. SAY HI TO HIM FOR ME.
I'M OFF. LET'S DO DINNER NEXT TIME.
CLICK

HMM?
OH!
SO YOU'RE TANI-KAWA?
UM, YEAH.
MY, NOW♡ SO YOU'RE THE ONE ALWAYS HELPING TOKIE OUT AT WORK.
LUCKY YOU, TOKIE.
GETTING TO WORK WITH SUCH A YOUNG THING.
Maybe I should get back into the work-force—
...YEAH.
SEEYA.
nod
clack
WELCOME BACK. YOU MUST HAVE HAD A LONG DAY.
SORRY ABOUT HER. SHE'S A FRIEND OF MINE.
UM, IS THE CHIEF...?

REALLY? SORRY.
YOU WERE WAITING HERE JUST FOR ME.
THEY WENT STRAIGHT HOME AFTER THE ROUNDS TODAY.
OH, HE ALREADY LEFT? WHAT ABOUT MORIO AND THE REST...?
HE'S AT A BUSINESS DINNER AT YAMASE'S.
tap
SO, TANIKAWA,
HOW ABOUT YOU LEAVE THE PAPERWORK FOR TOMORROW AND WE BOTH HEAD OUT?
SURE.
tap
I HAD SOMETHING I WANTED TO FINISH TOO.
IT'S FINE.

THE MOON IS LOVELY TONIGHT.
OH, I'LL WALK YOU HOME.
THAT'S OK, I'M IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION AS YOU.
THAT'S FINE. AT LEAST LET ME WALK YOU MIDWAY.
WELL, I GUESS I'LL IMPOSE UPON YOU, THEN.
.....

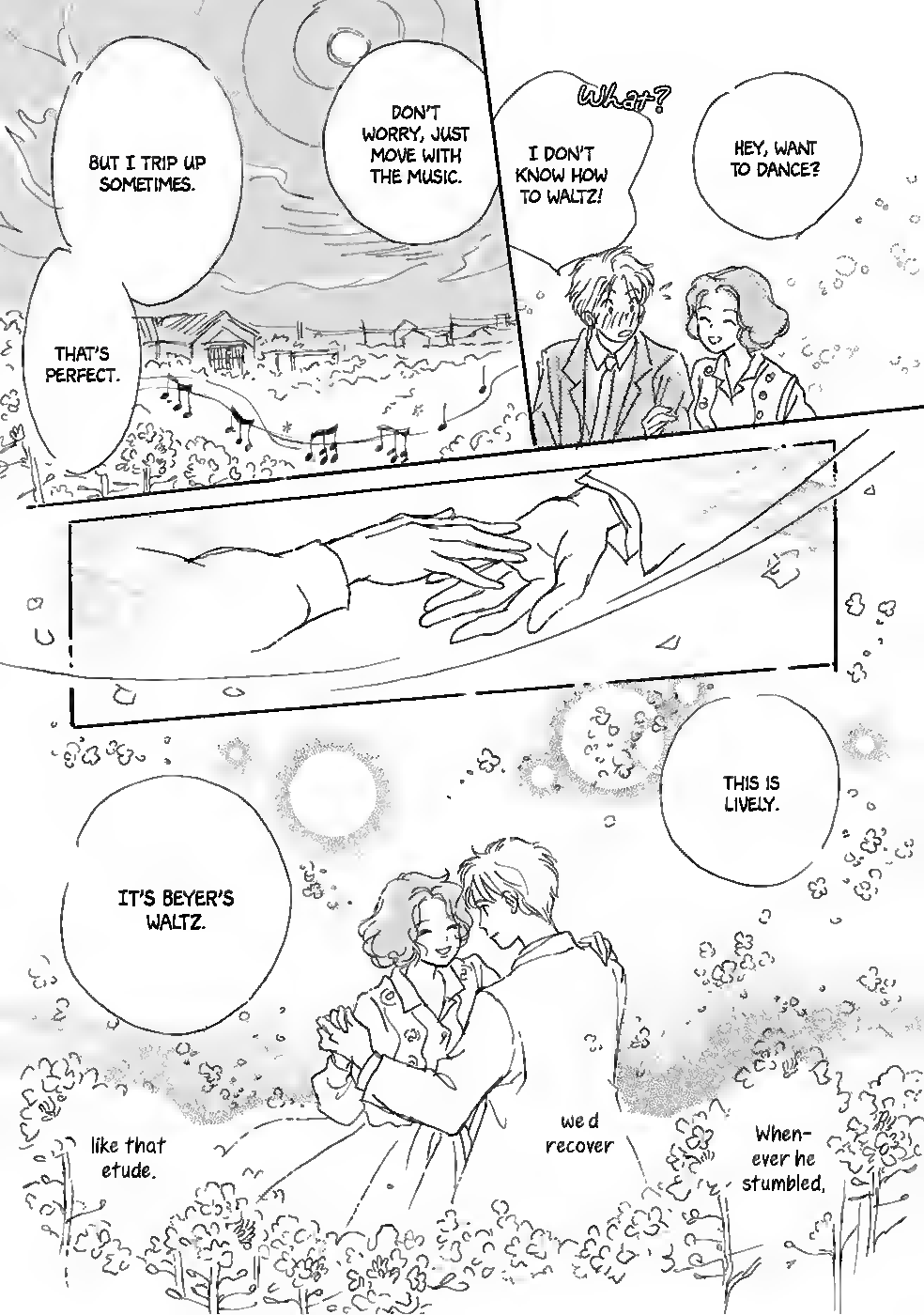

Set your mind to it, Tokie
What else matters?
...TOKIE.
WHAT?
WOULD YOU
MARRY ME?
ZOOM
blush
oh!

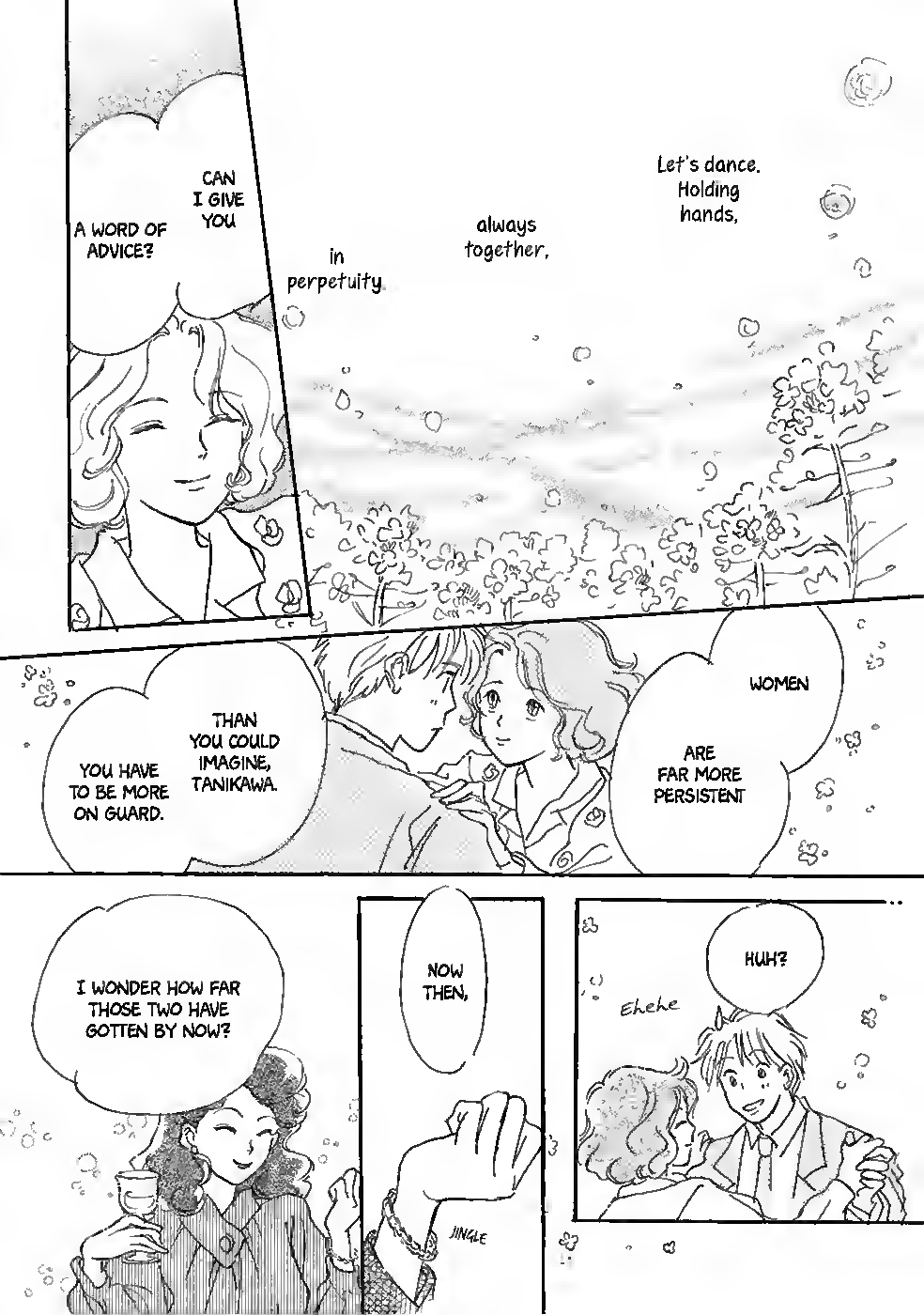
WHAT DID I JUST SAY!?
WH—
...WHAT?
...YOU ASKED ME TO MARRY YOU.
bdmp
YOU DIDN'T MEAN IT?
BLUUUUUSH
I JUST—
I- I'M SORRY!
nod
nod
nod
SO YOUR PROPOSAL STANDS?
shake
shake
shake
I'LL GLADLY ACCEPT.
I SEE.

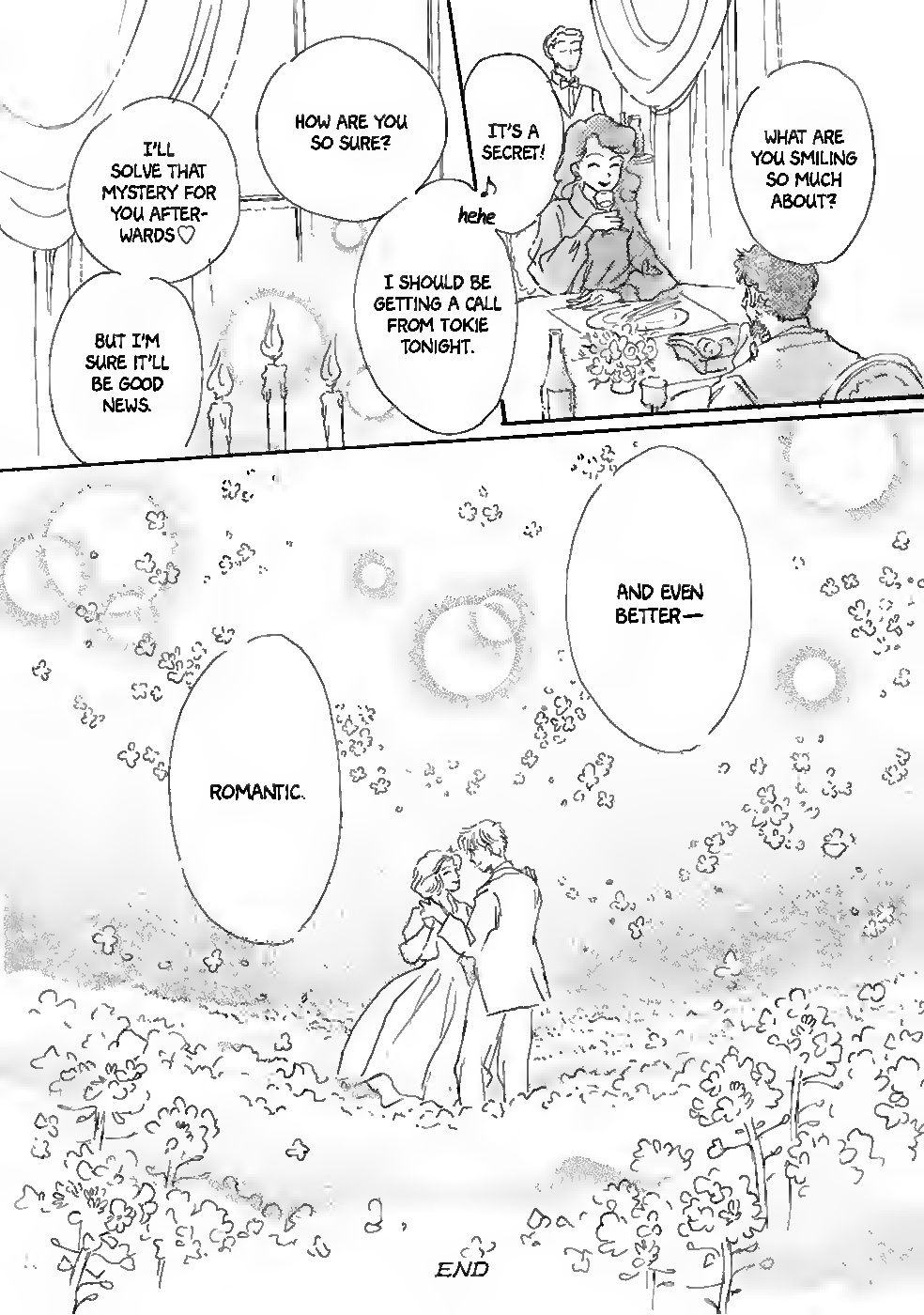
I do the accounting work
I KNOW.
...R-
REALLY?
BUT I- I DON'T MAKE A LOT OF MONEY.
AND I- I DON'T HAVE ANY SAVINGS.
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, SO THAT'S A GIVEN.
BUT, YOU KNOW,
I'M ACTUALLY OLDER THAN YOU, TANIKAWA.
THAT'S SOMETHING THAT WON'T CHANGE NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME PASSES.
EVEN IF WE WALK FORWARD SIDE BY SIDE,
I'LL ALWAYS BE OLDER THAN YOU. I'LL TURN INTO AN OLD WOMAN.
zoom
dash
DESPITE THAT, DO YOU STILL...

I'M A FAST RUNNER,
TURN
SEE!
tap
SO YOU CAN WALK AT YOUR OWN PACE, TOKIE.
I'LL ALWAYS RUN AHEAD OF YOU
AND WAIT FOR YOU THERE!

I HOPE IT HASN'T WILTED.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
RUMMAGE
THANK YOU, TANI-KAWA.
tug
I LOVE IT.
I'VE NEVER SEEN A RING SO LOVELY.
...IT'S SO CUTE.
TAP TAP TAP.
IT'S A TRIPLE METER WALTZ.
TAP TAP TAP,
THERE'S A PIANO SCHOOL UP AHEAD.
IS THAT A PIANO?


BUT I TRIP UP SOMETIMES.
DON'T WORRY, JUST MOVE WITH THE MUSIC.
THAT'S PERFECT.
What?
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO WALTZ!
HEY, WANT TO DANCE?
THIS IS LIVELY.
IT'S BEYER'S WALTZ.
like that etude.
we'd recover
Whenever he stumbled,


CAN I GIVE YOU A WORD OF ADVICE?
Let's dance. Holding hands,
always together,
in perpetuity.
WOMEN ARE FAR MORE PERSISTENT THAN YOU COULD IMAGINE, TANIKAWA.
YOU HAVE TO BE MORE ON GUARD.
NOW THEN,
JINGLE
I WONDER HOW FAR THOSE TWO HAVE GOTTEN BY NOW?
HUH?
Ehehe


I'LL SOLVE THAT MYSTERY FOR YOU AFTER-WARDS♡
HOW ARE YOU SO SURE?
IT'S A SECRET!
♪ hehe
WHAT ARE YOU SMILING SO MUCH ABOUT?
BUT I'M SURE IT'LL BE GOOD NEWS.
I SHOULD BE GETTING A CALL FROM TOKIE TONIGHT.
AND EVEN BETTER—
ROMANTIC.
END

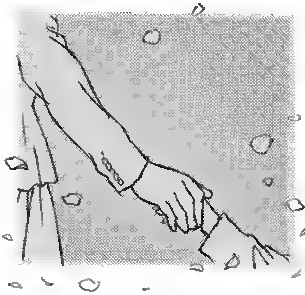
Lovely Strange Dark
YORU NO DOUWA
"EVENING FAIRY-TALES"
BY KONNO KITA
CHAPTER 4
Translation Kalendel
Editing Cpt Mischief
QC Ianu
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

In a faroway land with the bluest of night skies two children were traveling.
They were searching for their hometown by the light of the stars.
Their footsteps were small but sure.
moving ever forword
FWIP
The Land of Night
BOOKS
THAT'LL BE 1260 YEN.

I try not to think about my own happiness.

Nor about the time Dad and I stood under the cherry blossoms

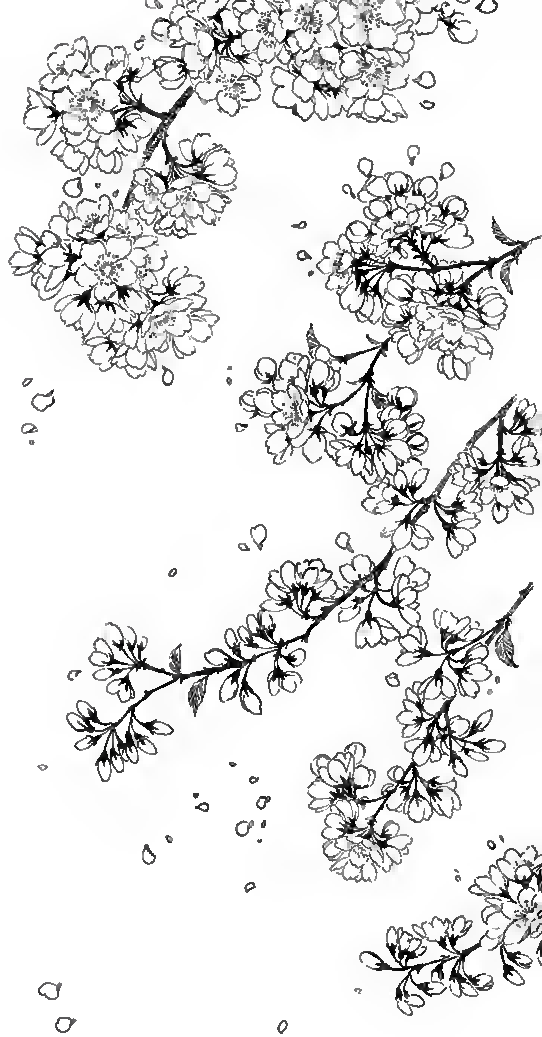
and watched Mom take my little brother by the hand and leave.



My mom never come back home,

but even now, whenever spring comes around, I feel the urge to quietly hold my breath under the cherry blossoms

and wait for her eventual return.



The House that Waits for Spring

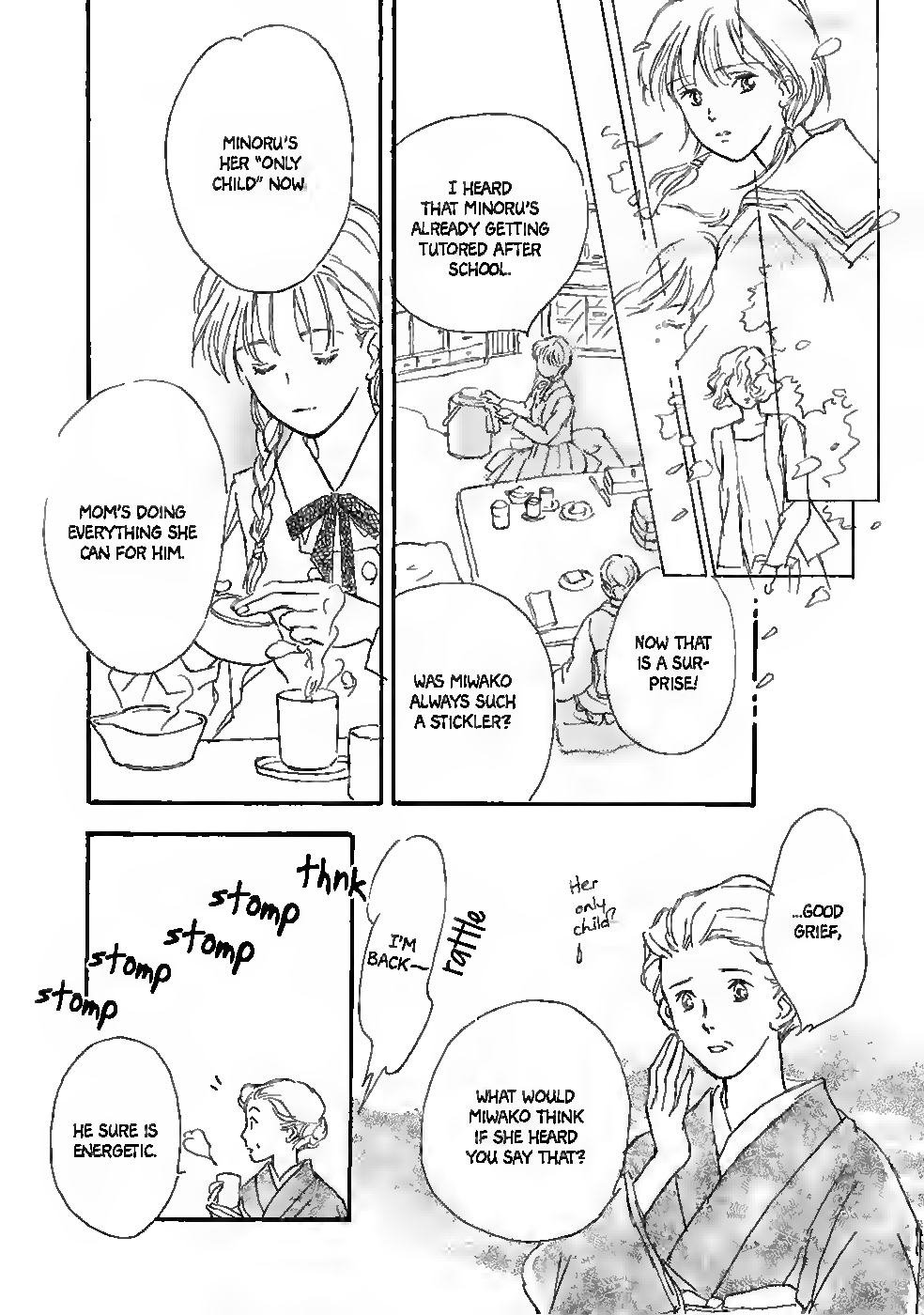
Peek
stomp
stomp
stomp
IS THAT YOU, AUNTIE?
YES, YOU'RE HERE!
I'M HOME!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT.
YOU STILL AREN'T LOCKING THE DOOR.
IT'S NOT SAFE.
THAT'S BECAUSE DAD COULD DROP BY ANYTIME.

IT'S HIS JOB.
HE'S AS IRRESPONSIBLE AS EVER, THAT ONE.
haaa
AND HE DOESN'T HAVE HIS OWN KEY?
HE LOSES THE SPARES AS FAST AS I CAN MAKE THEM.
crunch
IS HE ON HIS WAY BACK NOW?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BUY IT. THE PUBLISHER WOULD SEND A COPY, SURELY.
The Lord of Night
I BOUGHT THIS ON MY WAY HOME. IT JUST CAME OUT.

I JUST WANTED TO BUY A COPY AT THE STORE WITH MY OWN MONEY,
LIKE A NORMAL CUSTOMER.
BUT HIWA, YOU HAVE TO STUDY FOR YOUR EXAMS THIS YEAR.
I'M GOING TO QUIT BEFORE SUMMER BREAK.
AS YOU SHOULD!
SO YOU STILL HAVE THAT PART TIME JOB AT THE ART STORE?
I HAVE A COPY FOR YOU TOO, AUNTIE.
OH, NO...
I KNOW HE PUT A LOT INTO THIS,
BUT I'M HOPELESS WITH CHILDREN'S BOOKS.
I DON'T REALLY GET THEM...
DAD'S BOOKS AREN'T HARD TO GET.
AND YOU SHOULDN'T THINK LIKE THEY'RE JUST FOR KIDS!
EVERY ADULT WAS ONCE A CHILD!
NOW YOU'RE MINCING WORDS.

IT'S YOSHIHISA'S BIRTHDAY TODAY, YOU KNOW.
THAT'S HIS FAVORITE.
WHOA, SUSHI!
WHAT'S THAT?
OH!
SHE GAVE HIM EXTRA AS A PRESENT FOR STARTING MIDDLE SCHOOL.
SHE REALLY OUTDID HERSELF.
STILL...
OH? WHAT IS IT?
A GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR A BOOK STORE.
HE GOT A GIFT FROM MY MOM, TOO.
THANKS! YOSH! WILL LOVE THIS.
YOU GUYS GET HIM ABOUT EVERYTHING HE NEEDS, AUNTIE.
MAYBE SHE TRIED TO GET HIM SOMETHING YOU WOULDN'T HAVE.
YOU CAN'T TURN THOSE GIFT CERTIFICATES INTO CASH. I FEEL BAD FOR HIM.

AND MINORU, TOO! SHE SAID HE'LL BE STARTING GRADE SCHOOL NEXT YEAR.
HE'S GOING TO BLOW IT ALL ON MANGA!
IF YOU GIVE HIM MONEY AT A BOOK-STORE,
HE NEEDS A LOT OF THINGS THIS TIME OF YEAR, SO IT'LL REALLY HELP OUT.
Diction-aries and reference books...
Hiwako!
SINCE YOSHIHISA CAME BACK?
TAP
..REALLY? THAT WAS FAST!
Hiwako!
HAS IT REALLY BEEN THAT LONG


MINORU'S HER "ONLY CHILD" NOW.
MOM'S DOING EVERYTHING SHE CAN FOR HIM.
I HEARD THAT MINORU'S ALREADY GETTING TUTORED AFTER SCHOOL.
WAS MIWAKO ALWAYS SUCH A STICKLER?
NOW THAT IS A SURPRISE!
thnk
stomp
stomp
stomp
stomp
HE SURE IS ENERGETIC.
I'M BACK~
rattle
Her only child?
WHAT WOULD MIWAKO THINK IF SHE HEARD YOU SAY THAT?
...GOOD GRIEF,

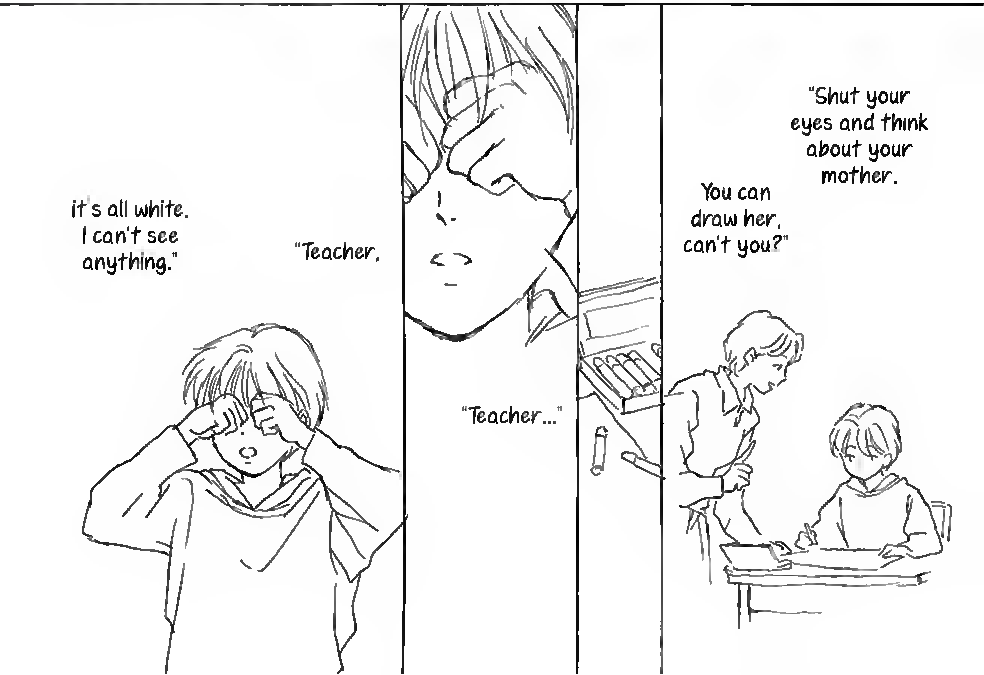
I'M STARVED! IS THERE ANY FOOD, HIWAKO?
OH, AUNTIE'S HERE!
LOOK AT THAT! YOU'VE GROWN INTO THAT UNIFORM OF YOURS.
YOSHI, SHE MADE US SUSHI.
WOW!
This one has sides
HEY! WASH YOUR HANDS FIRST!
OW!
slap
YOU'LL EAT WITH US, AUNTIE!
I'LL GET DINNER SET UP EARLY, BEFORE YOSHI STARVES TO DEATH.
SOUNDS GOOD. YOUR UNCLE'S OFF PLAYING GO, SO HE WON'T BE HERE UNTIL LATE.
THEN I'LL START SOME MISO SOUP RIGHT AWAY.
SLAP

YOSHI.
DON'T JUST LAZE AROUND. GO TAKE YOUR BATH.
GOOD NIGHT.
YUP! NIGHT.
AND LOCK THE DOORS PROPERLY, OK?
I WON'T!
DON'T FORGET TO TURN OFF THE GAS
HEY, HIWA.
DO YOU THINK
THAT THESE TWO KIDS ARE YOU AND ME?
THE KIDS TRAVELING IN THE LAND OF NIGHT.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, HIWA?
DO THESE TWO EVER FIND THE LAND OF DAWN?
DAD'S STORIES ARE ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
HE LEAVES THEM OPEN-ENDED.
WELL...
TRAVELING THROUGH SOME FAR-AWAY LAND.
I'M SURE THAT THOSE TWO ARE EVEN NOW
hehe
WE SURE SPENT ENOUGH TIME LOOKING FOR DAD.
WALKING AROUND THE PARK AT NIGHT, FOR ONE.
It's the suburbs, so it's safe.
WE GOT THAT POSTCARD FROM KYOTO THE OTHER DAY.
YEAH.
HE'S PROBABLY GAZING AT THE MOON AND THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS AND COMING UP WITH POEMS.
HE THINKS HE'S SOME HEIAN POET.
I WONDER
WHERE DAD IS RIGHT NOW?

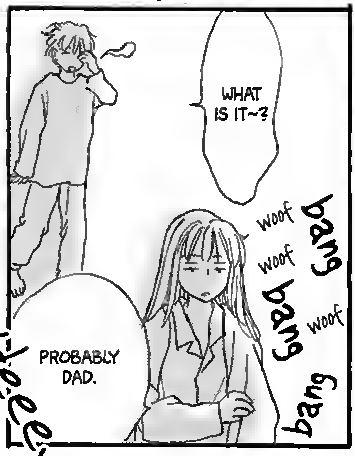
C'MON, I TOLD YOU TO GET IN THE BATH ALREADY!
QUIT HARP-ING—
WITH THE SCRUFFY BEARD!
hehe
AND THAT SCRUFFY BEARD?
hehe
hehe
hehe
SAME DIRTY CLOTHES!
WITH THOSE DIRTY CLOTHES OF HIS?
hehe
I CAN SAY IT HOWEVER MANY TIMES I WANT.
YOU SAID THAT BEFORE.
HAPPY BIRTH-DAY.
HM~?
YOSHI.

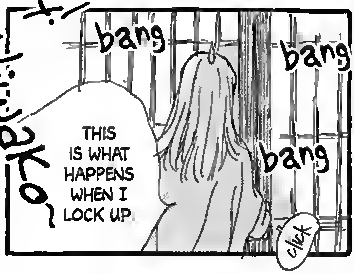
"Yoshihisa, what happened?"
"You've stopped drawing."
BUT THE OTHER DAY, AT SCHOOL—
UP UNTIL MINORU WAS BORN, IT SEEMED LIKE YOSHIHISA WAS GETTING ALONG FINE WHERE HE IS.
—WHAT SHOULD I DO?


it's all white. I can't see anything."
"Teacher,
"Teacher..."
You can draw her, can't you?"
"Shut your eyes and think about your mother.

"Mom kinda seems like she belongs to another family."

"It's all white. I can't see anything."



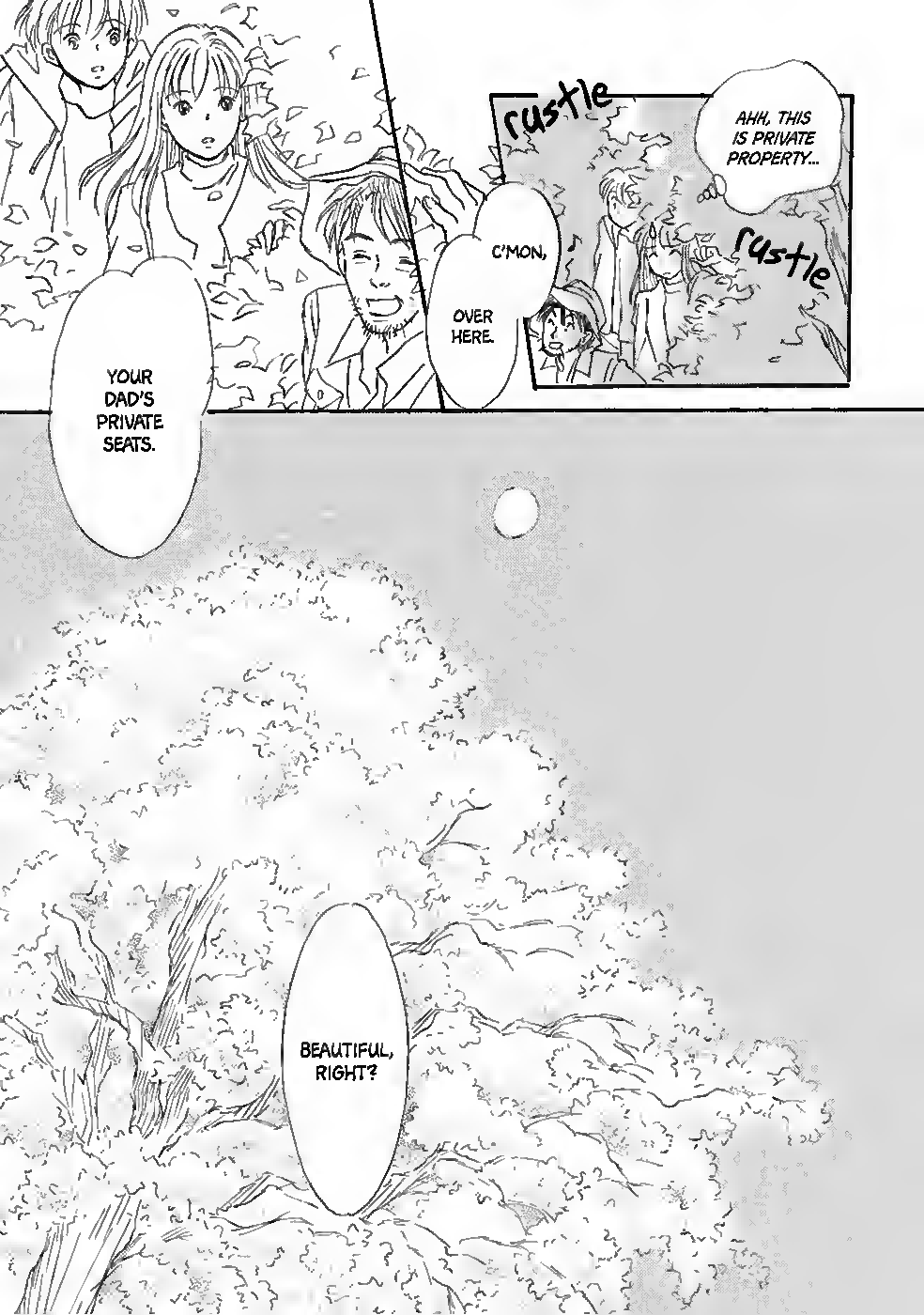


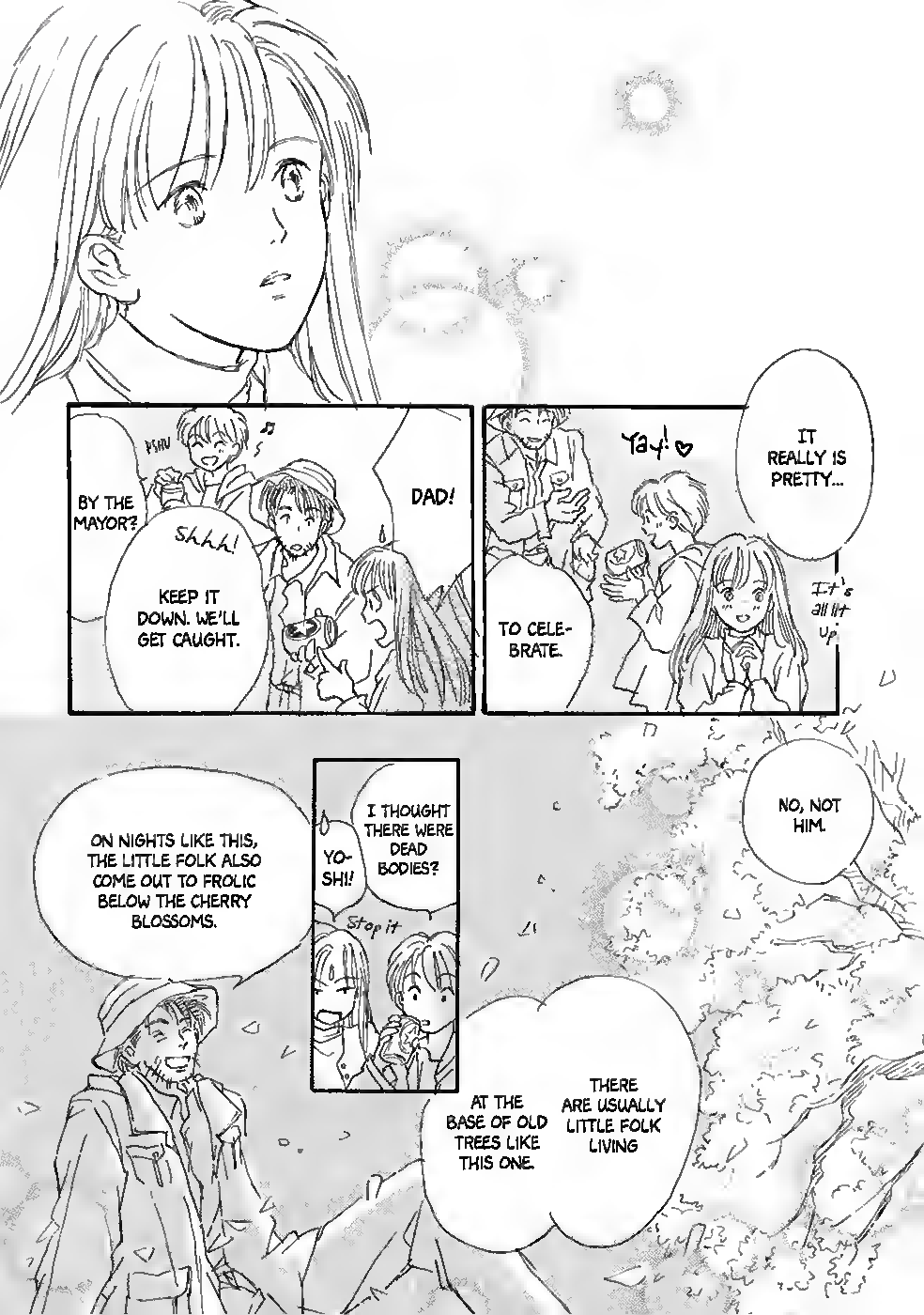
BANG BANG BANG BANG

woof woof woof

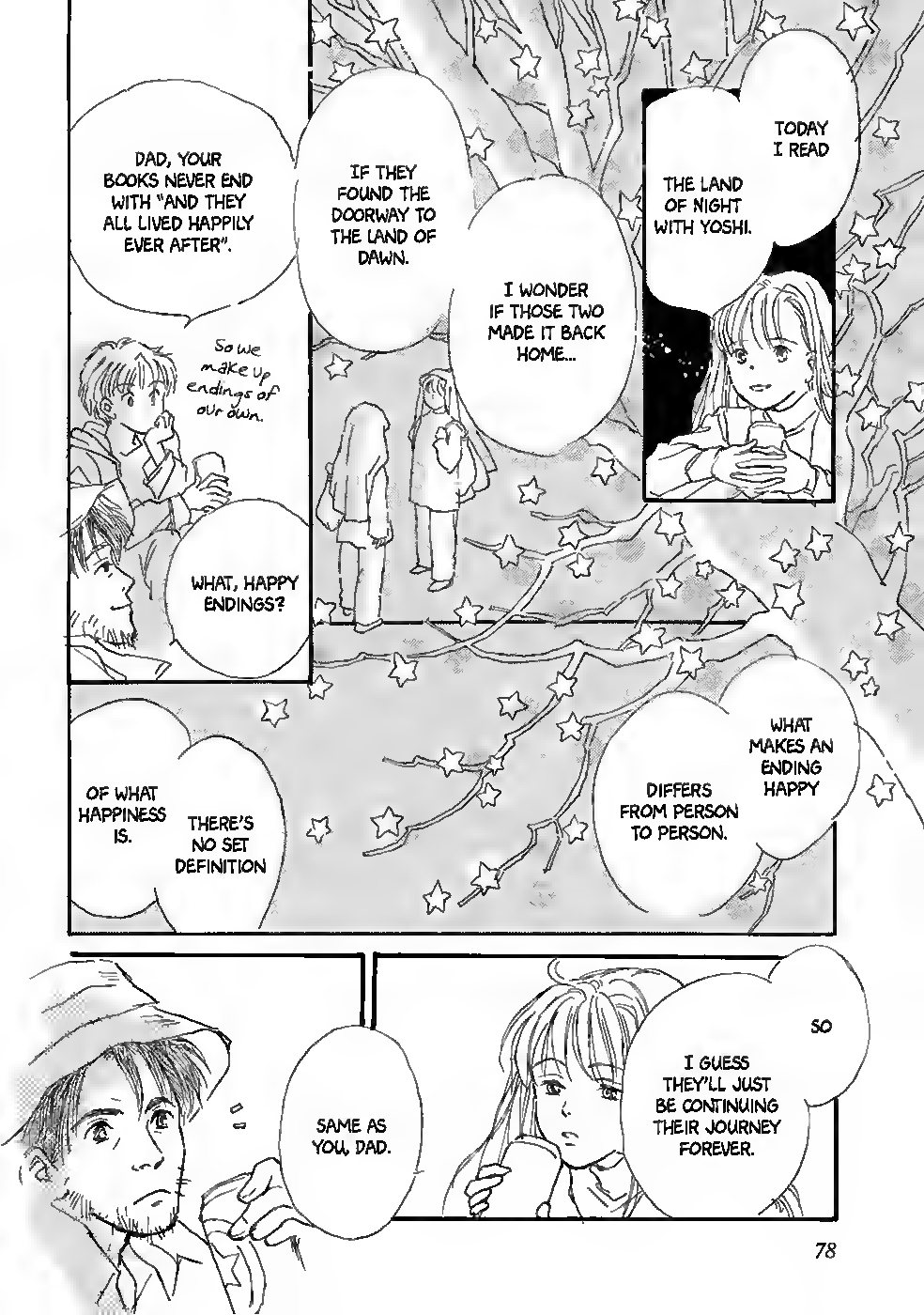
"Hiwako, that's because—"

RATTLE
HIWAKO! YOSHIHISA! THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS!
IT'S YOSHI'S BIRTHDAY TODAY, YOU KNOW!
DAD, KEEP IT DOWN.
Geez, the dog next door...
LET'S GO SEE THE BLOSSOMS BY MOONLIGHT!
woof woof woof
DAD! HEY, DAD!
AT LEAST LET US CHANGE FIRST!
And there he goes
Hurry up!
C'MON, LET'S GO.
WE CAN CELEBRATE WHILE ADMIRING THE BLOSSOMS.
BARELY.
Before midnight
IS IT STILL TODAY?
Well,
THE BEST BLOSSOMS AROUND HERE ARE AT THE MAYOR'S HOUSE.
IT'S NOT THE PARK?
HOW FAR ARE WE GOING?


YOUR DAD'S PRIVATE SEATS.
C'MON, OVER HERE.
rustle
AHH, THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY...
rustle
BEAUTIFUL, RIGHT?

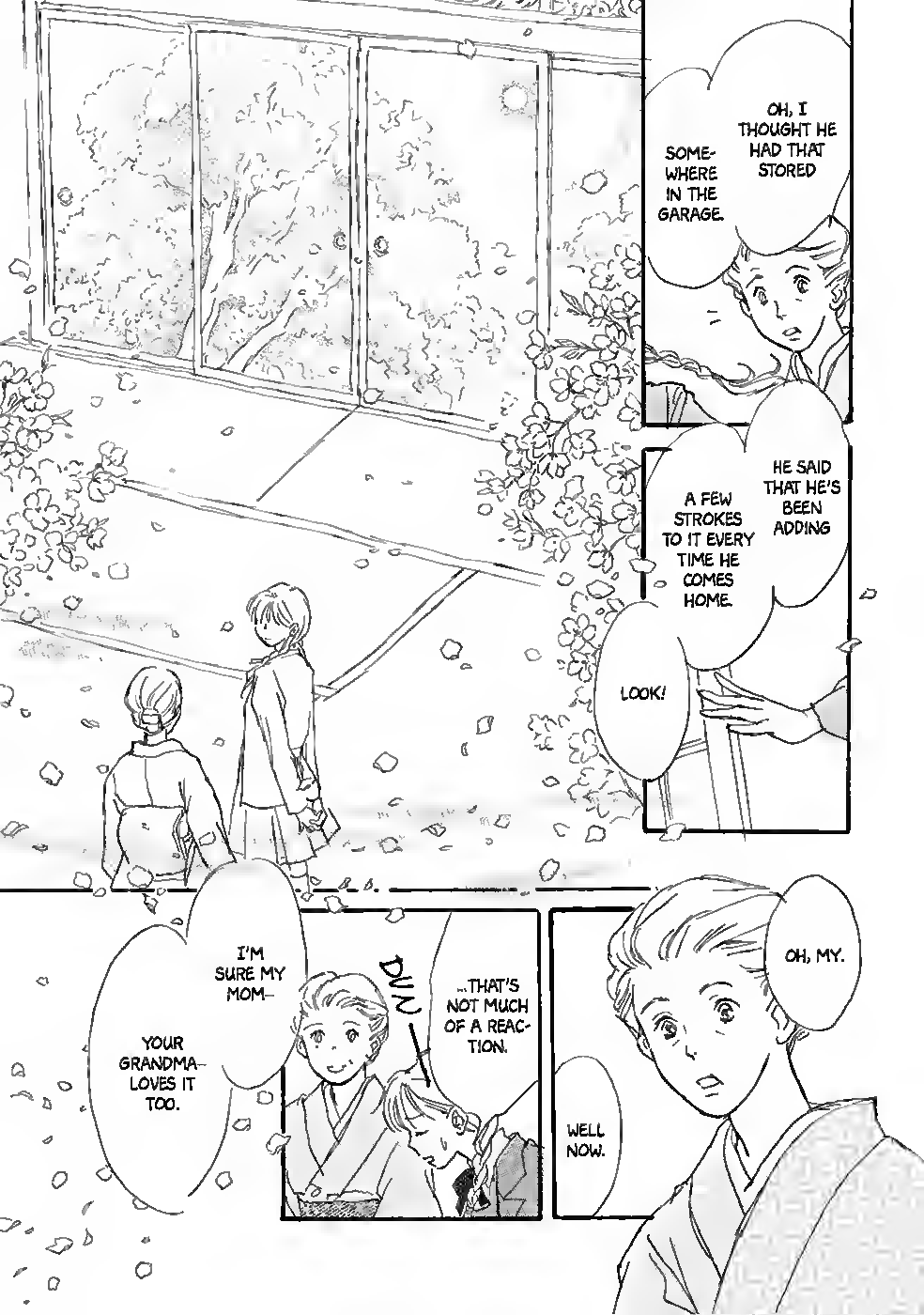

Hm
BY THE MAYOR?
SHHH!
KEEP IT DOWN. WE'LL GET CAUGHT.
DAD!
Yay!
IT REALLY IS PRETTY...
It's all lit up.
TO CELE-BRATE.
NO, NOT HIM.
I THOUGHT THERE WERE DEAD BODIES?
YO-SHI!
Stop it
ON NIGHTS LIKE THIS, THE LITTLE FOLK ALSO COME OUT TO FROLIC BELOW THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
THERE ARE USUALLY LITTLE FOLK LIVING
AT THE BASE OF OLD TREES LIKE THIS ONE.

A while back I found the expression "fanciful noture" in a book.
la la la
la la
My dad without a doubt has a fanciful nature.
IF YOU REALLY LISTEN—
TAP TAP
THERE, CAN YOU HEAR THE MUSIC?
TAP TAP TAP
SNAP
SO, LITTLE MISS, WORK YOUR MAGIC.
TAT
POOF!
he he he he
gets passed an ta me.
this brilliant magic
I hope


DAD, YOUR BOOKS NEVER END WITH "AND THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER".
IF THEY FOUND THE DOORWAY TO THE LAND OF DAWN.
I WONDER IF THOSE TWO MADE IT BACK HOME...
TODAY I READ THE LAND OF NIGHT WITH YOSHI.
So we make up endings of our own.
WHAT, HAPPY ENDINGS?
OF WHAT HAPPINESS IS.
THERE'S NO SET DEFINITION
DIFFERS FROM PERSON TO PERSON.
WHAT MAKES AN ENDING HAPPY
SAME AS YOU, DAD.
SO I GUESS THEY'LL JUST BE CONTINUING THEIR JOURNEY FOREVER.

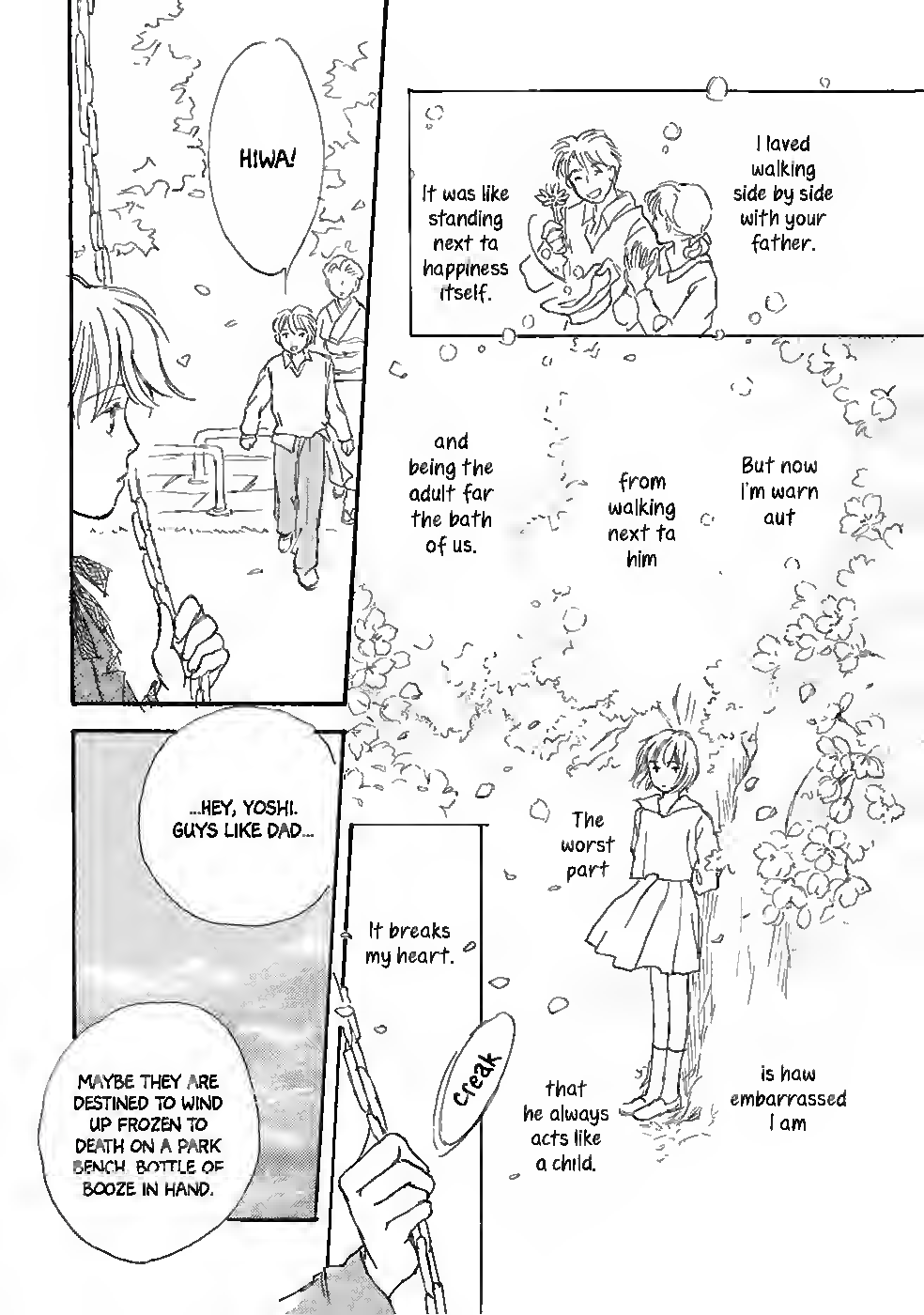
sleepy
Return to?
I WANT TO RETURN TO ONE DAY.
KNOWING THAT THERE'S SOMEWHERE
NOT HOME?
—NO...
AT THE SAME TIME, I'M SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING,
I SUPPOSE I AM TRAVELING AND DRAWING MY BOOKS.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
IT'S PROBABLY NOT A "PLACE".
—I don't remember what my Dad said after that.

YOUR FATHER CAME HOME?
YEAH.
BUT HE LEFT THIS MORNING, SAYING HE'S OFF TO TOKYO TO CHASE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
He was here for like three days
He follows these blossoms as they bloom across Japan.
MISSED HIM AGAIN, HAVE I?
I WANT YOU TO SEE THE ALTAR ROOM SCREEN.
COME WITH ME, AUNTIE.
HUH?
DON'T TELL ME ONE CAN OF BEER KNOCKED HER OUT?
HAAA

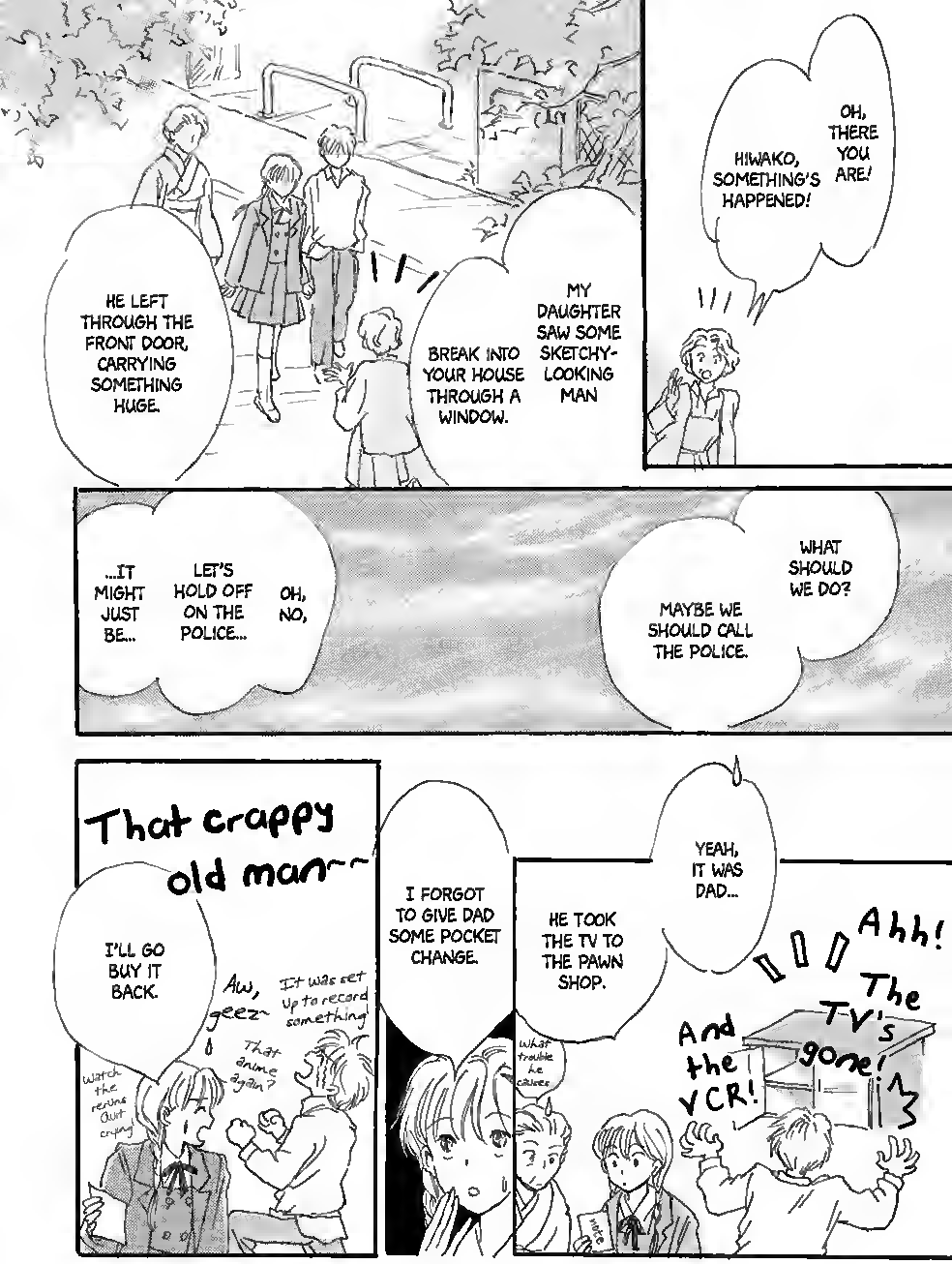

OH, I THOUGHT HE HAD THAT STORED SOME-WHERE IN THE GARAGE.
HE SAID THAT HE'S BEEN ADDING A FEW STROKES TO IT EVERY TIME HE COMES HOME.
LOOK!
OH, MY.
WELL NOW.
...THAT'S NOT MUCH OF A REAC-TION.
DUN
I'M SURE MY MOM—
YOUR GRANDMA— LOVES IT TOO.

YOU WANT YOSHI AND ME TO MOVE IN WITH YOU, AUNTIE?
SHE LOVED CHERRY BLOSSOMS MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD.
THE MEMORIALS WILL BE LOVELY NOW.
WE'VE SPOKEN WITH YOUR DAD ABOUT IT.
HE'S NEVER GOING TO CHANGE.
WE WORRY ABOUT YOU.
AND YOU HAVE YOUR ENTRANCE EXAMS NEXT YEAR, HIWAKO.
I WANT YOU TO GET INTO A GOOD UNIVERSITY AND MARRY INTO A GOOD FAMILY.
WHEN YOU GO OUT INTO THE WORLD, YOU SHOULD HAVE NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF—

HIWA-KO!
HIWA...
YOU'RE JUST LIKE MY MOM!
THUD
AH!
AND I SHOULD BE ASHAMED
OF LIVING WITH DAD?
RATTLE
SLAM
owww-
HUH? HIWAKO, WHAT HAPPENED?
...OH DEAR.
I REALLY PUT MY FOOT IN IT.
SHE'S AT A DIFFICULT AGE, TOO...
I'm sorry, Hiwa.


HIWA!
It was like standing next ta happiness itself.
I laved walking side by side with your father.
and being the adult far the bath of us.
from walking next ta him
But now I'm warn aut
The worst part
is haw embarrassed I am
that he always acts like a child.
...HEY, YOSHI. GUYS LIKE DAD...
It breaks my heart.
Creak
MAYBE THEY ARE DESTINED TO WIND UP FROZEN TO DEATH ON A PARK BENCH, BOTTLE OF BOOZE IN HAND.

BUT RIGHT NOW I'M STILL A KID,
AND I LOVE EVERYTHING ABOUT DAD.
BY THINKING HOW ADULTS THINK.
EVEN I'LL GROW UP AND PUSH DAD AWAY
MAYBE
BUT OUR DAD ISN'T GOING TO HAVE THAT SAD ENDING.
BURIED WITHOUT A NAME.
I JUST WISH I COULD ALWAYS
FEEL THIS WAY...


HE LEFT THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR, CARRYING SOMETHING HUGE.
BREAK INTO YOUR HOUSE THROUGH A WINDOW.
MY DAUGHTER SAW SOME SKETCHY-LOOKING MAN
HIWAKO, SOMETHING'S HAPPENED!
OH, THERE YOU ARE!
...IT MIGHT JUST BE...
LET'S HOLD OFF ON THE POLICE...
OH, NO,
MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL THE POLICE.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
That crappy old man~~
I'LL GO BUY IT BACK.
Aw, geez~
It was set up to record something
That anime again?
Watch the reruns Quit crying
I FORGOT TO GIVE DAD SOME POCKET CHANGE.
HE TOOK THE TV TO THE PAWN SHOP.
What trouble he causes
YEAH, IT WAS DAD...
Ahh!
The TV's gone!
And the VCR!

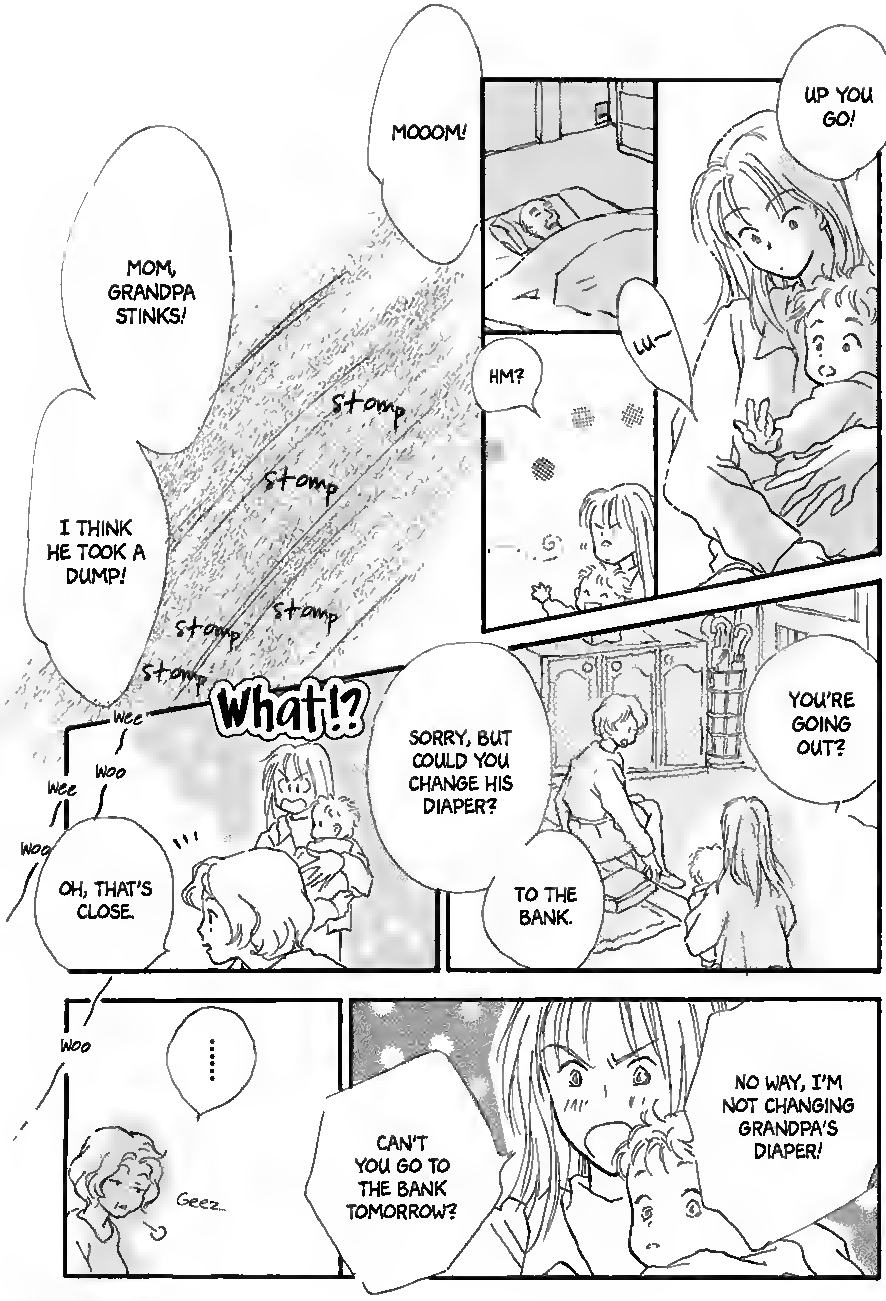
HIWA, WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THE DOOR?
LOCK IT?
stomp
stomp
stomp
YOSHI, DID YOU FORGET ANY-THING?
YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF GROCERIES TODAY.
CHECK THE DATE ON THE MEAT.
NO,
LEAVE IT OPEN.
HM?
...HEY, YOSHI.
BACK THEN, WHAT DAD SAID...
It's probably not a "place".

END

Lovely Strange Dark
YORU NO DOUWA
"EVENING FAIRY-TALES"
BY KONNO KITA
CHAPTER 5
Translation Kalendel
Editing Cpt Mischief
QC Ianu
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

RATTLE

LU~
LULU
LU
LULU
LU
LU~
LU~
LULU
Stomp
Stomp
Stomp
Stomp
STOP THAT, YUU.
LUU!
YUU!


MOOOM!
MOM, GRANDPA STINKS!
I THINK HE TOOK A DUMP!
Stomp
Stomp
Stomp
Stomp
Stomp
What!?
Wee
Woo
Wee
Woo
OH, THAT'S CLOSE.
SORRY, BUT COULD YOU CHANGE HIS DIAPER?
TO THE BANK.
YOU'RE GOING OUT?
HM?
UP YOU GO!
Woo
.....
Geez..
CAN'T YOU GO TO THE BANK TOMORROW?
NO WAY, I'M NOT CHANGING GRANDPA'S DIAPER!

BACK WHEN YOU LIVED IN THE COUNTRY, WE'D GO AND VACATION AT YOUR PLACE.
SHE WAS GRANDPA'S LITTLE GIRL BACK THEN.
How heartless. I guess she's still a child
We're off to the park for a bit!
IT DOESN'T SMELL THAT BAD.
THE HOUSE IS STINKY WINKY. LET'S US TWO GO FOR A WALK.
Lu~
Here we go
BEAR WITH ME FOR JUST A BIT.
ALRIGHT DAD, LET'S GET YOU CHANGED.
...THAT'S RIGHT.
smush
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD.
zip
LULU

IT'S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DAY.
rattle
rattle
rattle
rattle
LULU
rumble
LU—
krhnk
rattle
rattle
rattle
LU—
LULU
rattle
rattle
LULU LULU—

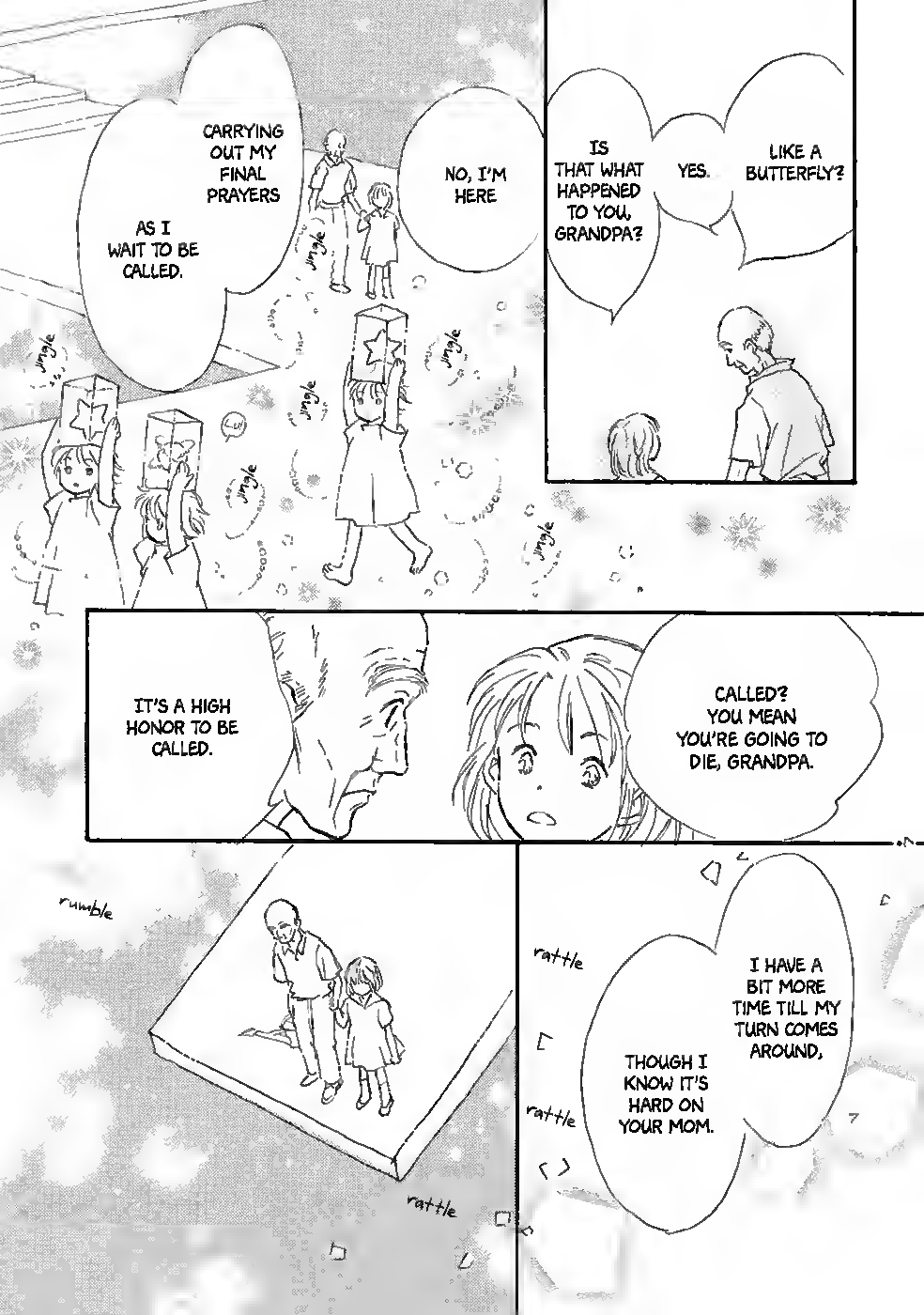
IT'S ME, CHIKA!
HM?
GRANDPA!
LU~
LULU LU
rattle
rattle
rumble
MY NOW, IT'S YOU WHEN YOU WERE ITTY BITTY.
BIT-TY?
YOU MOVED? THIS PLACE IS SO BIG AND BRIGHT.
IS THIS YOUR HOUSE, GRANDPA?
kthnk
rattle
rattle
rattle
I WAS OFF LOOKING FOR A POSTBOX.
GRANDPA, LISTEN! I WROTE YOU A LETTER!
OH?

THEY'RE MAKING THE STARS ALL SHINY.
SEE, THEY'RE CLEANING THE CEILING.
THEY'RE MY LITTLE FRIENDS.
WHO'RE THOSE KIDS?
WHAT'RE THEY DOING?
rattle
rattle rattle
WHASSAT?
TRUE. I'M THE ONLY ONE YOU CAN TELL APART, CHIKA.
MUSS
rattle
klunk
THEY'RE ALL GOING "LULULU". IT'S WEIRD.
AND THEY ALL HAVE THE SAME FACE.

BABY WIND?
IT'S BABY WIND.
WHOA, IT'S A TINY HURRICANE!
YOU WERE WATERING ONE BEFORE.
whirl
whirl
SO WHAT ABOUT THAT?
WHASSAT, GRANDPA?
rattle
rattle
AND BABY RAINBOWS?
IS IT BABY RAIN?
rumble

SO IS THIS WHERE WIND GETS BORN?
AND RAINBOWS?
BIRDIES ARE GOD'S HELPERS IN THE SKY.
I READ IT IN A BOOK.
THOSE KIDS MUST BE BIRDIES.
PRETTY, ISN'T IT?
IT'S THE SOUND OF A WATER WHEEL.
WHAT IS IT?
I KEEP HEARING THAT SOUND.
rattle
rattle
kthunk
rattle
rumble
rattle
rattle
kthunk

IT'S AT THE END.
YOU CAN'T GO THERE YET.
rattle
rattle
YOU CAN'T.
CAN I GO SEE THE WATER WHEEL?
rattle
rattle
rattle
CHIKA, YOU'VE SEEN SPIDER WEBS BEFORE, RIGHT?
THIS PLACE IS LIKE A SEE-THROUGH SPIDER WEB
STRUNG UP IN THE SKY.
A CHILD LIKE YOU, HEADED FOR THE END TOO SOON,
GETS STUCK HERE IN THIS WEB.
BUT EVERY SO OFTEN
rattle
Krkrrrk
IS A SPIDER GONNA EAT ME?
NO... THERE ARE NO SPIDERS HERE.

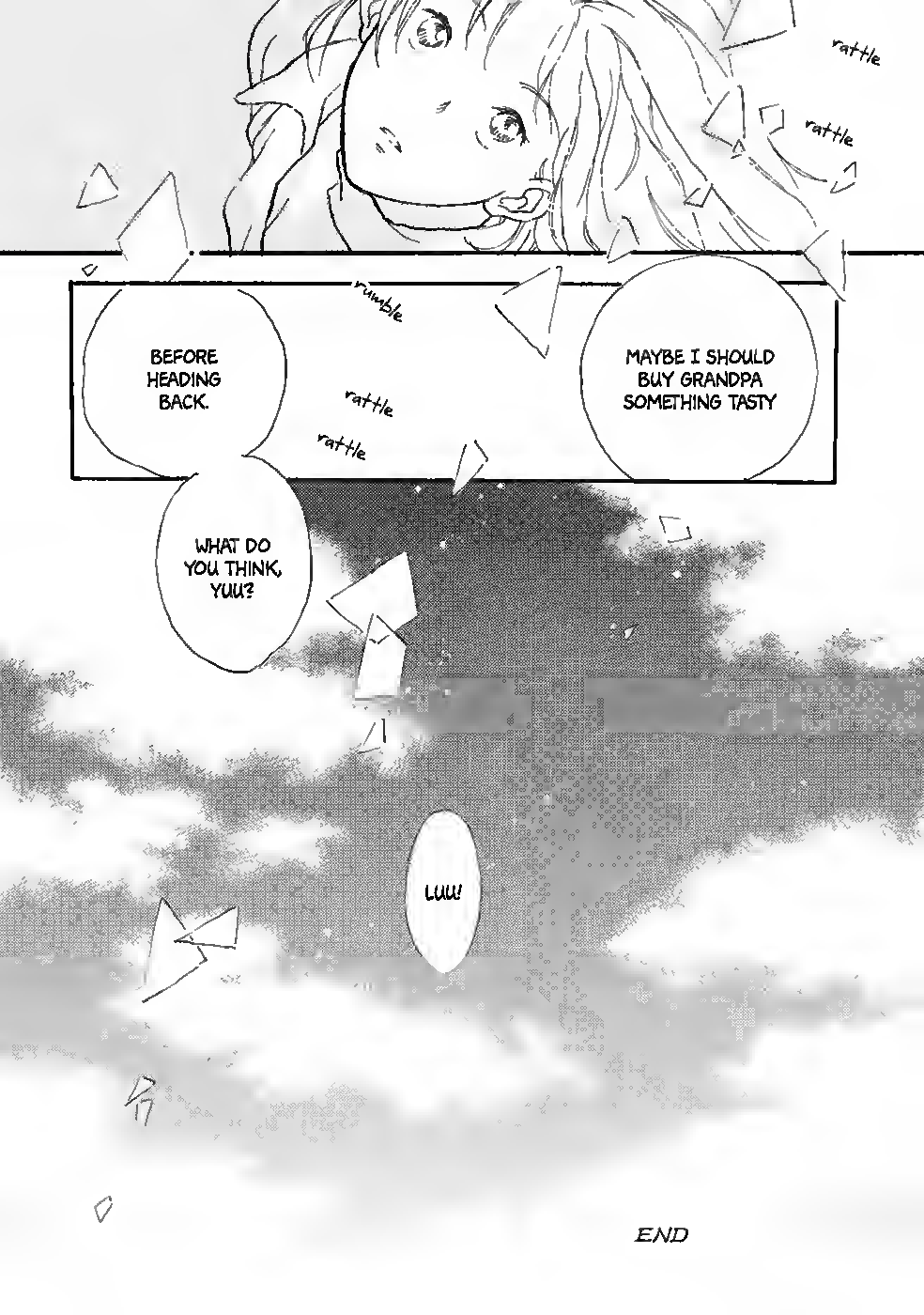

IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, GRANDPA?
YES.
LIKE A BUTTERFLY?
NO, I'M HERE
CARRYING OUT MY FINAL PRAYERS AS I WAIT TO BE CALLED.
jingle
IT'S A HIGH HONOR TO BE CALLED.
CALLED? YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, GRANDPA.
rumble
rattle
rattle
rattle
I HAVE A BIT MORE TIME TILL MY TURN COMES AROUND,
THOUGH I KNOW IT'S HARD ON YOUR MOM.

UM, I WAS GOING TO CROSS THE ROAD...
...YES.
AND THEN... THERE WAS A RED CAR—
DID YOU FIND A POSTBOX?
THAT'S RIGHT. CHIKA,
CAN'T I STAY WITH YOU, GRANDPA? I CAN PRAY TOO.
GRANDPA!
LOOK, IT'S A BABY RAINBOW.

rattle
rattle
BYE BYE, GRANDPA.
HEAD ON HOME BEFORE THE RAINBOW DISAPPEARS.
BYE BYE, CHIKA. TILL NEXT TIME.
rattle
rattle
rattle
——Till next time.

GOOD MORNING.
OH, GOOD MORNING.
LOOK AT YOU, CHIKA! WHAT A MOTHER YOU'VE BECOME.
YOU'RE STAYING WITH YOUR FOLKS FOR A BIT?
YES. MY HUSBAND IS ON A BUSINESS TRIP, AND I FIGURED THINGS WOULD BE A BIT EASIER AT MY PARENT'S PLACE.
DID YOU HEAR THAT AMBULANCE GO BY EARLIER?
...NO?
I HEARD IT WAS NEGISHI'S BOY. HE WAS ON HIS BICYCLE IN THE STREET, AND A CAR SLAMMED INTO HIM. WHAM!
...SCARY. I GOT HIT BY A CAR ONCE, MYSELF...
That street's always been dangerous
We should bring it up at the PTA meeting
GOODBYE.

rattle
rattle
SO,
HOW ABOUT WE HEAD BACK, YUU?
MAYBE I'M HEARING THINGS.
LISTEN TO YOU— YOU'VE PICKED UP GRANDPA'S LULU SPEAK.
Hah!
LULU SPEAK, HUH.
It's cute
I want you to say mama
Couldn't it at least be maama?
rattle
rumble
LUU~
LU LUU~
YOU CAN HEAR IT TOO, YUU?
...?

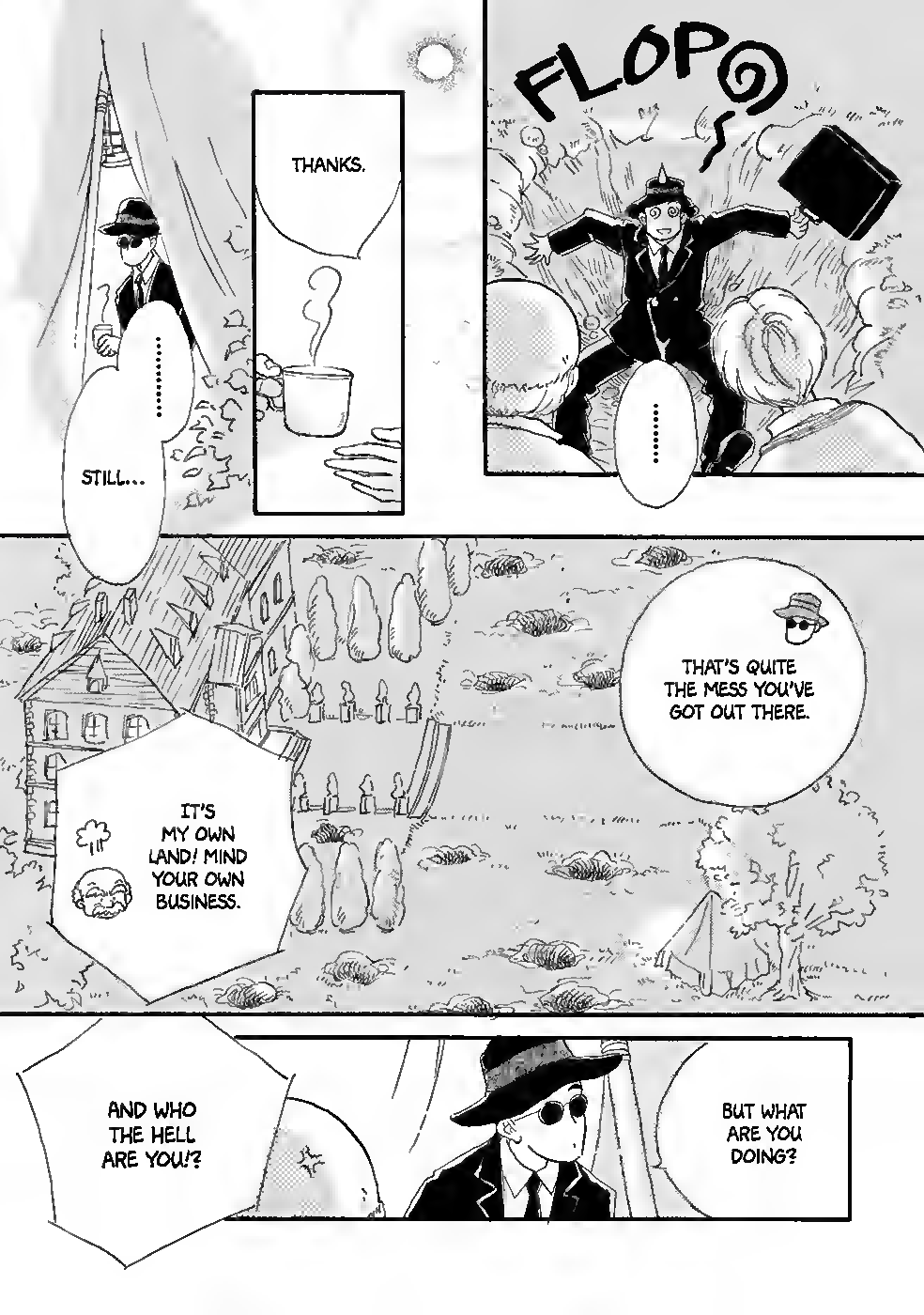

rattle
rattle
rumble
BEFORE HEADING BACK.
rattle
rattle
MAYBE I SHOULD BUY GRANDPA SOMETHING TASTY
WHAT DO YOU THINK, YUU?
LUU!

END

Lovely Strange Dark
YORU NO DOUWA
"EVENING FAIRY-TALES"
BY KONNO KITA
CHAPTER 6
Translation Kalendel
Editing Cpt Mischief
QC Ianu
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

The Man Who Sells Glasses

The fragrant scent of spring flowers wafting through the evening air,
warm yellow lights shining in the windows of scattered houses...
Yeah, it's a nice town.
♪
Gahh!
IT'S OK! LOOKS LIKE HE'S ALIVE, GRAMPS.
MM.

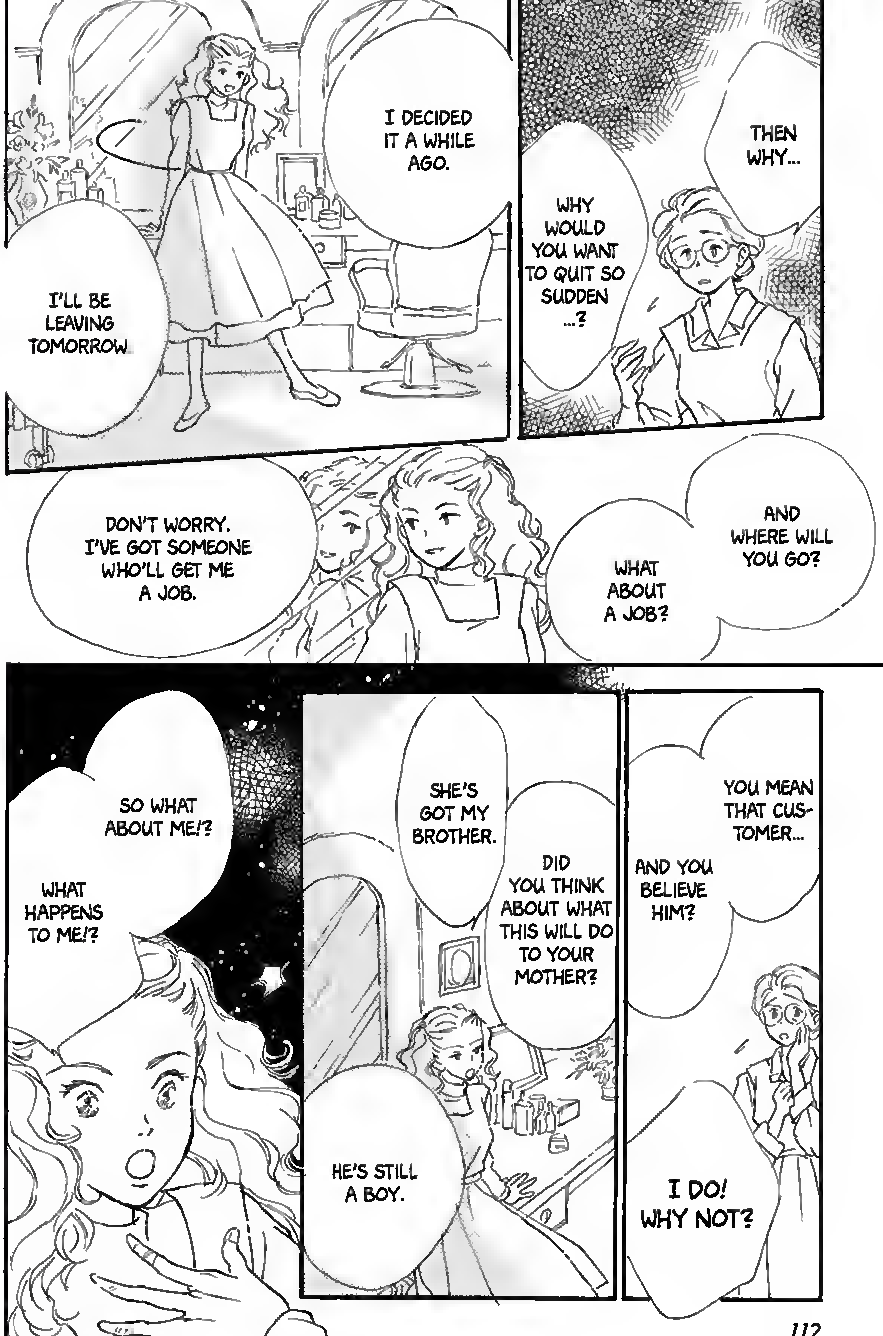

THANKS.
STILL...
FLOP
BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AND WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!?
IT'S MY OWN LAND! MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.
THAT'S QUITE THE MESS YOU'VE GOT OUT THERE.

ACTUALLY, THIS SHOULD CLARIFY THINGS...
WE DON'T EXACTLY GET A LOT OF PEOPLE WEARING SHADES AND BLACK SUITS AT THIS HOUR OF NIGHT I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO WORRY ABOUT SOME STRANGER PROWLING AROUND?
I'M NO ONE TO BE WORRIED ABOUT...
CHNK
HMM... A GLASSES SELLER.
DON'T BE SILLY! I DON'T NEED READING GLASSES!!
WOW, THAT'S PERFECT. GRAMPS, YOU CAN GRAB SOME READING GLASSES
BUT THE OTHER DAY YOU SAID IT'S HARD FOR YOU TO READ THE MAP.
MY EYES WERE JUST TIRED!
I'VE GOT GROUND-BREAKING LENSES DEVELOPED IN A LAB.
LIGHT AS A FEATHER.
THEY'RE THIN AS A BUBBLE,

BEFORE THE TROOPS MOVED IN, MY FATHER SECRETLY
BURIED THE FAMILY HEIRLOOMS AND FORTUNE IN THE GARDEN.
That chatterbox
DURING THE WAR, THIS PLACE WAS USED AS A MILITARY STATION.
YEAH, THE TREASURE MAP!
THE MAP?
YOU LITTLE!
...HOWEVER!
MY FATHER PASSED AWAY BEFORE THE WAR ENDED.
haa...
haa...
I'VE BEEN DIGGING FOR YEARS, RELYING ON THIS ONE PIECE OF PAPER THAT MY FATHER LEFT BEHIND.
BUT EVEN NOW, I CAN'T FIND THE TREASURE, NOPE!
Wahhh!
NOPE!!
AND LATELY, SOME NO GOOD FOLKS HAVE GOTTEN WIND OF THE TREASURE AND KEEP POPPING UP.
I CAN'T SLEEP PEACEFULLY IN MY OWN HOME.
HAVE TO STAY UP LIKE THIS AND KEEP WATCH.
WELL, THEN...

slide
HOW ABOUT YOU TRY THIS?
?
Wow!
A TELE-SCOPE!
HERE YOU GO.
Where'd that come from...?
WHAT'S THAT NOW? LET ME TAKE A LOOK.
IT'S A MAGIC TELESCOPE!!
WOW, THIS IS AMAZING! I CAN SEE EVERYTHING LIKE IT'S BROAD DAYLIGHT!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
YOU COULD CATCH THEM EASILY AND KICK THEM OUT.
IF ANY ROBBERS WERE TO SLIP ONTO YOUR PROPERTY,
OH MY, YOU CAN REALLY SEE WITH THIS!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED ONE OF THESE.
PLEASE DO CALL ON ME AGAIN.
I WONDER WHAT THE NEIGHBORS ARE DOING ♬
THIS ISN'T FOR SPYING!
Hmph
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SEE ANYTHING GOOD SPYING ON THE SALON.
JUST THE FRONT WINDOWS LOOK!
WELL,
I DO FEEL BAD ABOUT IT, AUNTIE.

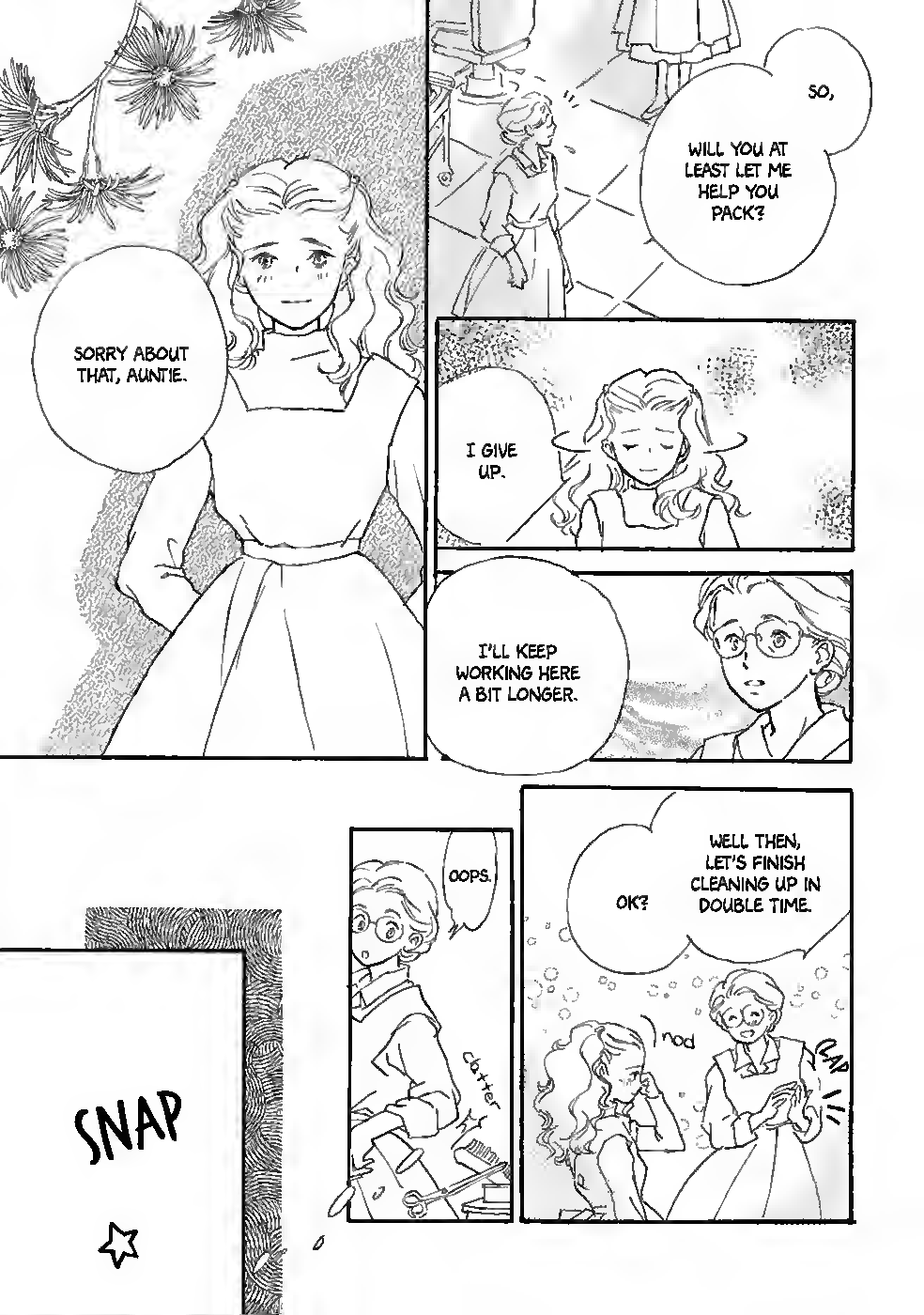

I'LL BE LEAVING TOMORROW.
I DECIDED IT A WHILE AGO.
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO QUIT SO SUDDEN ...?
THEN WHY...
DON'T WORRY. I'VE GOT SOMEONE WHO'LL GET ME A JOB.
WHAT ABOUT A JOB?
AND WHERE WILL YOU GO?
SO WHAT ABOUT ME!?
WHAT HAPPENS TO ME!?
SHE'S GOT MY BROTHER.
DID YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT THIS WILL DO TO YOUR MOTHER?
HE'S STILL A BOY.
AND YOU BELIEVE HIM?
YOU MEAN THAT CUSTOMER...
I DO! WHY NOT?

I CAN'T EVEN WEAR A NICE OUTFIT WITH THEM LIKE THIS.
JUST LOOK AT MY HANDS.
GOOD EVENING.
SLAM
I'M ON MY FEET WORKING ALL DAY, EVERY DAY.
WITH THIS LIFE!
BUT I'M DONE
I'VE PUT UP WITH IT FOR THIS LONG,
jingle
jingle
THE SHOP IS CLOSED, BUT I CAN DO A QUICK CUT.
OH, NO, I'M NOT HERE FOR A HAIRCUT.
I'M A TRAVELING GLASSES SALESMAN
OH, MY.

...OOH, SO YOU CAN'T SEE THEM.
BUSH
THE BLUE FRAMES ARE PRETTY.
I'D JUST GOTTEN TIRED OF THESE OLD GLASSES.
HIS BRIEFCASE IS EMPTY.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, AUNTIE?
OH MY.
OH!
?
WHAT KIND OF A FRAUD ARE YOU!?
THE HELL!

OW!
WHAT ARE...?
?
CLICK
SWIPE
SWIPE

EVERYTHING SEEMS A LITTLE BRIGHTER.
TRY THEM ON.
HAVE YOU CALMED DOWN?
YES, I'M FINE NOW. UM...
YOU LIKED THE BLUE FRAMES.
THEY WON'T GO OFF FLYING LIKE JUST NOW, WILL THEY?
BUT THEY RETURN TO THEIR OWNER RIGHT AWAY.
WELL, WHEN THERE'S A FULL MOON.
WELL THEN, I GUESS I'LL TAKE THESE.
MY, MY. STRANGE THINGS DO HAPPEN.
Jingle
Jingle


SORRY ABOUT THAT, AUNTIE.
SO, WILL YOU AT LEAST LET ME HELP YOU PACK?
I GIVE UP.
I'LL KEEP WORKING HERE A BIT LONGER.
OOPS.
clatter
WELL THEN, LET'S FINISH CLEANING UP IN DOUBLE TIME.
OK?
nod
SNAP

NOW, WHERE DID MY GLASSES GO...?
WE GOT A LETTER FROM HIM.
THAT'S RIGHT, HONEY.
OH...
OH MY.
THESE?
...
YOU HOPELESS LITTLE THING.
IT WAS YOU AGAIN?
THEY WERE ON THE FLOOR
YOU STEPPED ON THEM?
Booken
I CAN'T EVEN READ THE LETTER.
WHAT A BOTHER.
SO...
Yowl—

KNOCK KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
I'LL READ IT.
Hm——m
GOOD EVENING. I'M A GLASSES SELLER. MAY I BE OF SERVICE?
YES? WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
TRY THESE ON.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, HONEY?
OH MY!
THE WORLD IS FULL OF SUCH AMAZING COINCIDENCES!
Tch!
smile
smile
smile

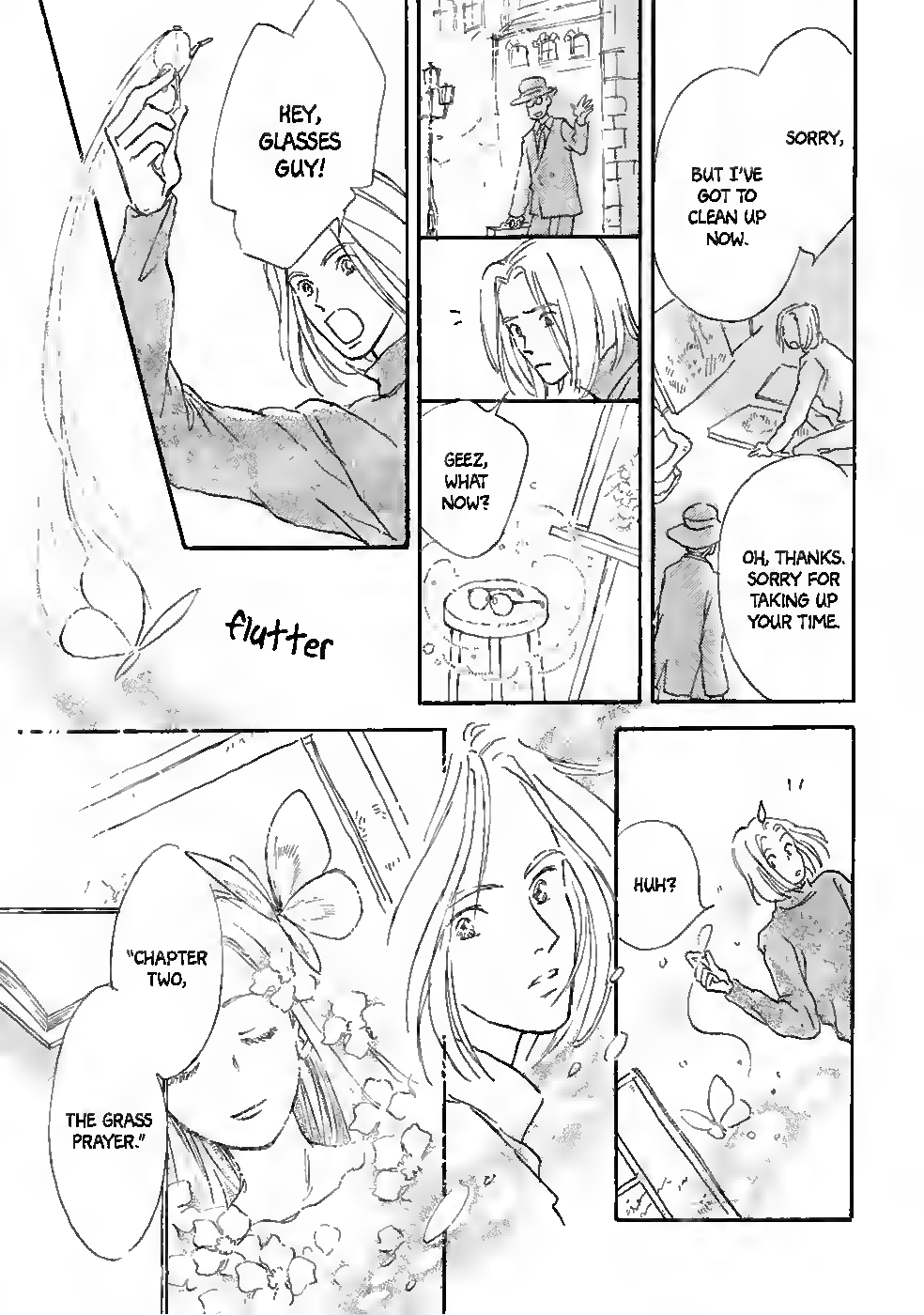
MY, WHAT LOVELY HANDS!
HUH?
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT...
YES...
YES, THESE ARE QUITE NICE.
IT'S SO NICE, BEING YOUNG.
No, I'm not that young.
IT'S ALL WRINKLED HANDS HERE, EACH AND EVERY DAY.
LOOKING AT THEM TOO LONG MAKES ME A LITTLE SAD.
YOU HAVE LOVELY HANDS YOURSELF, MA'AM.
PRICELESS HANDS
THE STRONG, WARM HANDS OF A MOTHER.
THAT RAISED MANY CHILDREN.

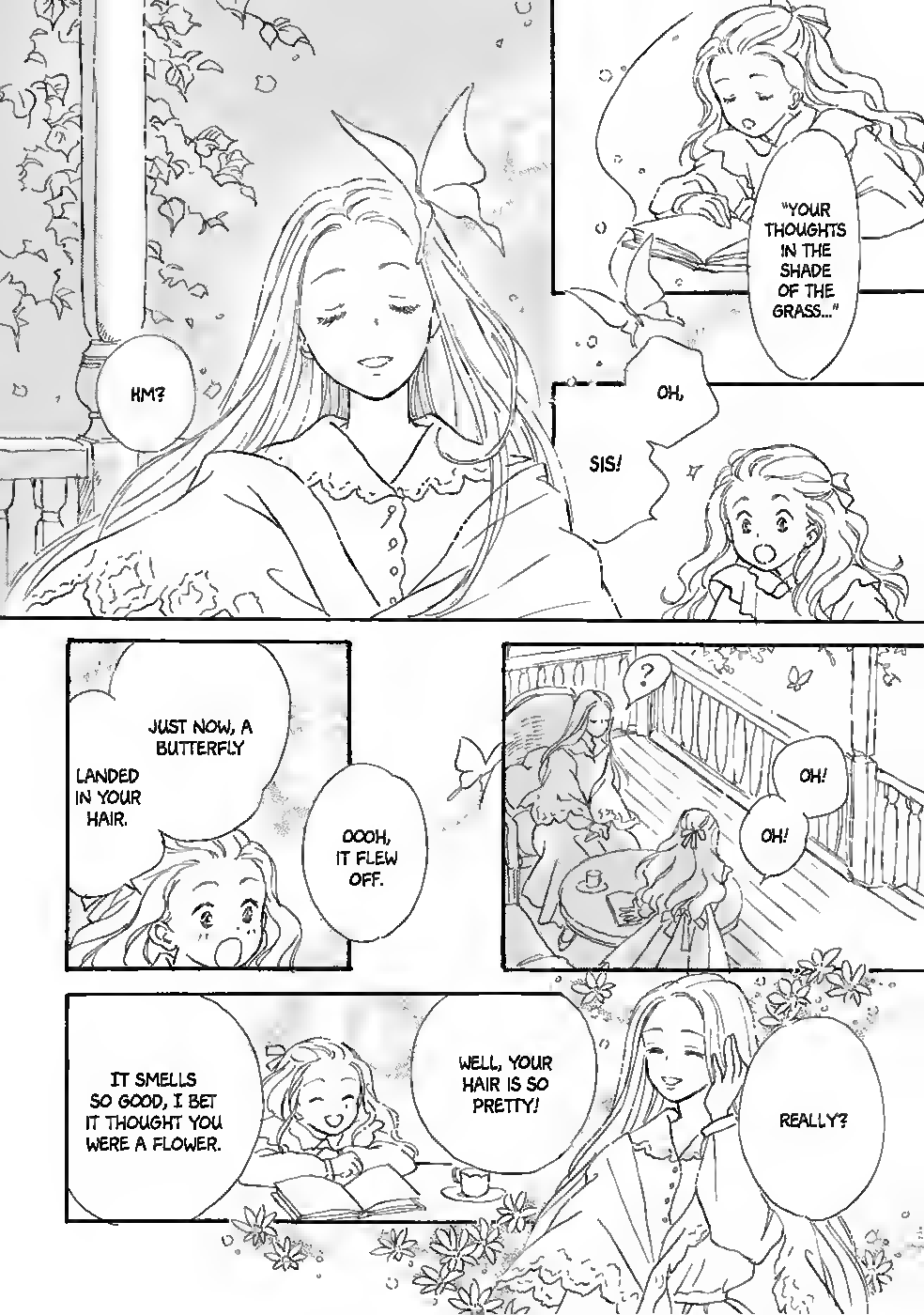
WELL, TONIGHT THE MOON IS JUST SO BRIGHT.
TCH!
OH MY, THANK YOU.
YES, IT IS.
SUCH A PLEASANT NIGHT.
PLEASE COME IN AND HAVE SOME TEA.
THANK YOU, BUT I HAVE TO GO.
DO YOU ALWAYS WORK SO LATE AT NIGHT?

HAHH.
RUB
THANK YOU FOR STOPPING BY.
Huh!?
I KNOW THIS IS SUDDEN, BUT HOW ABOUT THIS MUCH?
GOOD EVENING.
HUH?
HOW ABOUT YOU TRY SOMEWHERE ELSE?
UM, I'M NOT IN THAT LINE OF WORK.
CLATTER

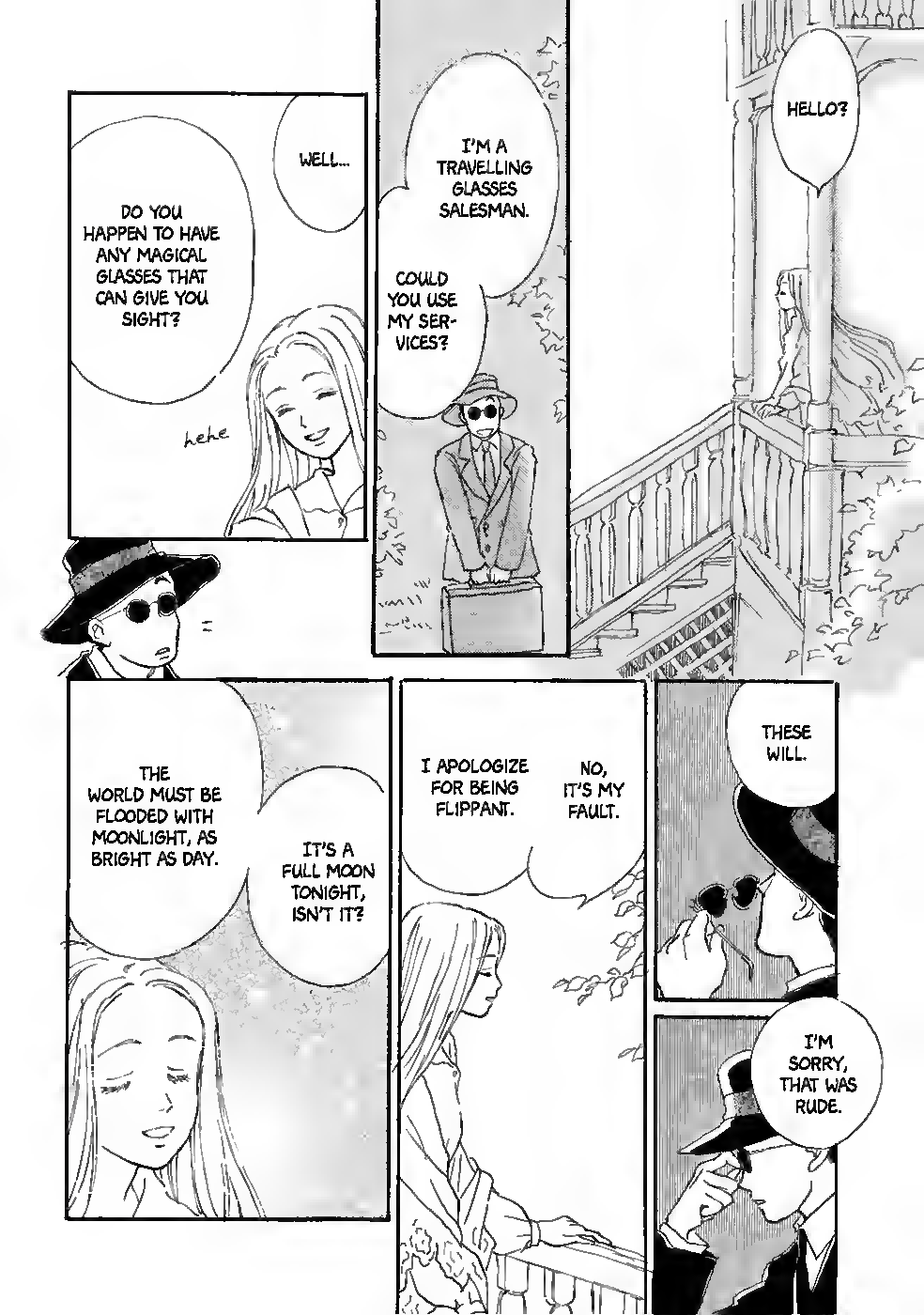
...REALLY?
HUH?
A GLASSES SELLER?
HONESTLY, THAT WAS AMBIGUOUS.
I DON'T NEED GLASSES, THOUGH. MY EYES ARE ABOUT THE ONE GOOD THING I'VE GOT.
FORGET IT.
I KNOW THIS PAINTING.
THIS IS YOURS?
IT'S REALLY FAMOUS—
IT'S A KNOCK-OFF.
PEOPLE ARE HAPPY TO BUY REPRODUCTIONS.
OH, BUT THIS ONE'S AN ORIGINAL.
MOST FOLKS COULD NEVER GET THE REAL ONES.
DON'T JUST STAND THERE LOOKING
IF YOU'RE NOT GOTTA BUY SOMETHING,

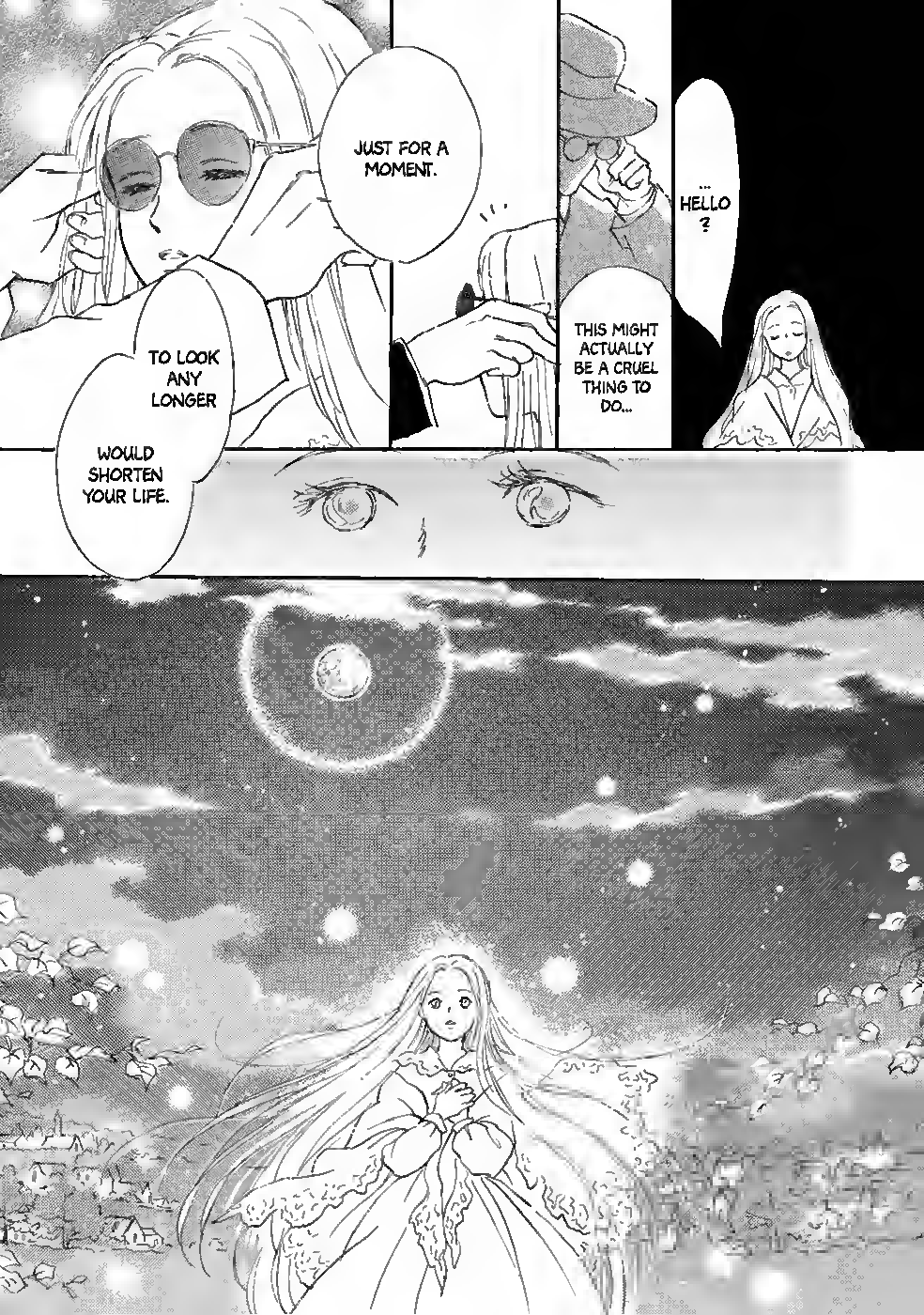
SHE'S JUST SOMEONE I KNOW.
None of your business.
SHE YOUR GIRL?
WOW, WHAT A PRETTY GIRL.
flip
IT'S SO SOFT.
A BEAUTIFUL, GENTLE PAINTING...
FORGET IT.
THIS ONE'S ALL SWEET AND DELICATE. NOT FOR YOU.
IT HAS TO GO TO A GIRL.
SHOULDN'T YOU SELL IT TO ANY TAKERS?
Are you say after all?
YOU'RE A CREEP.
HAS TO BE A GIRL, HUH?

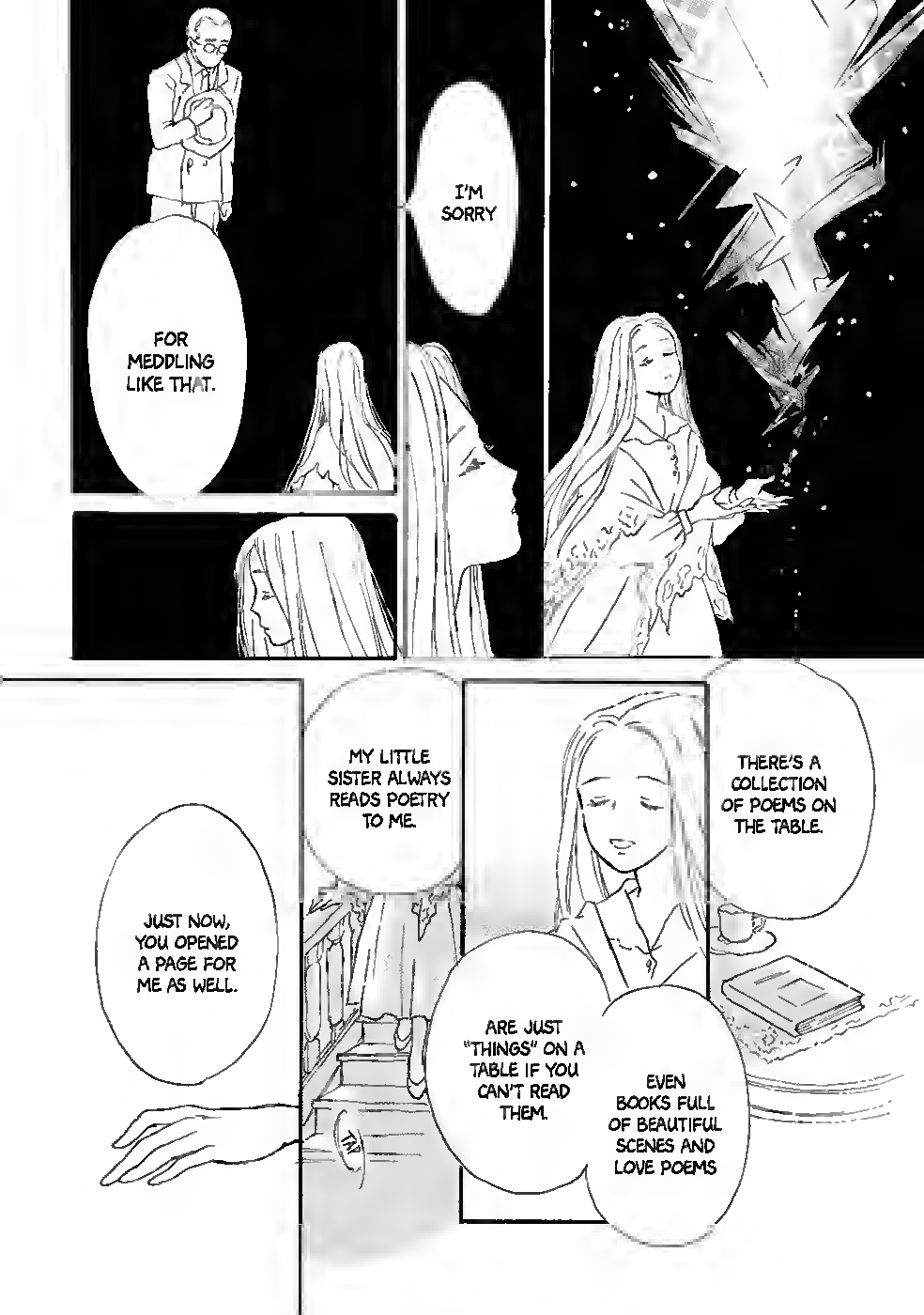

HEY, GLASSES GUY!
flutter
GEEZ, WHAT NOW?
SORRY, BUT I'VE GOT TO CLEAN UP NOW.
OH, THANKS. SORRY FOR TAKING UP YOUR TIME.
HUH?
"CHAPTER TWO, THE GRASS PRAYER."

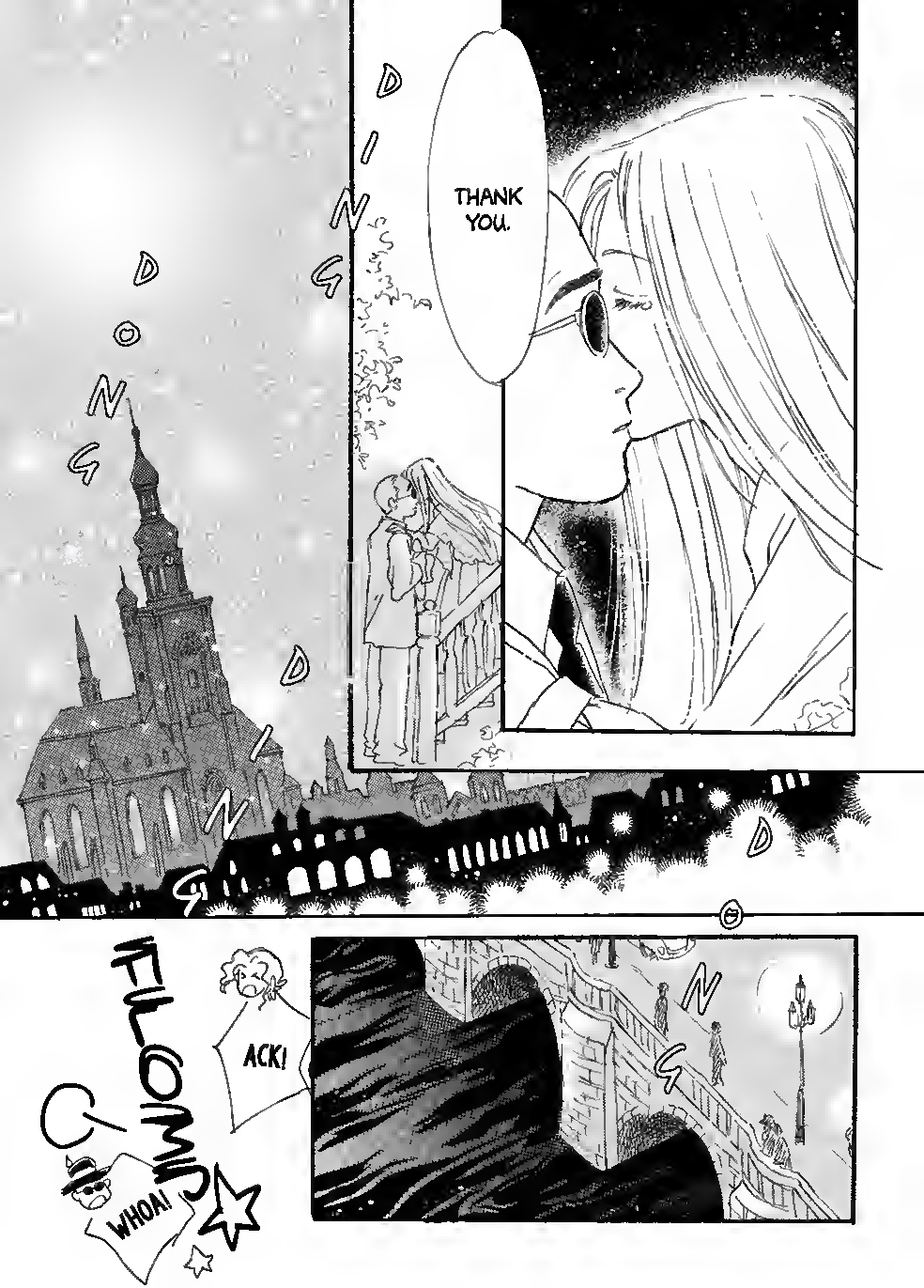

"YOUR THOUGHTS IN THE SHADE OF THE GRASS..."
HM?
OH, SIS!
JUST NOW, A BUTTERFLY LANDED IN YOUR HAIR.
OOOH, IT FLEW OFF.
?
OH!
OH!
IT SMELLS SO GOOD, I BET IT THOUGHT YOU WERE A FLOWER.
WELL, YOUR HAIR IS SO PRETTY!
REALLY?

NOT SURE.
PROBABLY ANOTHER ROMANCE.
WENT OFF TO SEE?
HEY SIS, WHAT MOVIE DO YOU THINK MOM AND DAD
TIME FOR BED.
MMM—
I'LL STAY AWAKE UNTIL MOM AND DAD GET HOME.
WHY DO GROWN-UPS LIKE THOSE BORING MOVIES SO MUCH?
THOSE THINGS ARE ALWAYS THE SAME.
yawn
AND I'LL KEEP READ-ING THAT BOOK...
TO YOU...
zzz
GOOD EVENING.


HELLO?
I'M A TRAVELLING GLASSES SALESMAN.
COULD YOU USE MY SERVICES?
WELL...
DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE ANY MAGICAL GLASSES THAT CAN GIVE YOU SIGHT?
hehe
THESE WILL.
I'M SORRY, THAT WAS RUDE.
I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING FLIPPANT.
NO, IT'S MY FAULT.
IT'S A FULL MOON TONIGHT, ISN'T IT?
THE WORLD MUST BE FLOODED WITH MOONLIGHT, AS BRIGHT AS DAY.


... HELLO ?
THIS MIGHT ACTUALLY BE A CRUEL THING TO DO...
JUST FOR A MOMENT.
TO LOOK ANY LONGER
WOULD SHORTEN YOUR LIFE.


FOR MEDDLING LIKE THAT.
I'M SORRY
EVEN BOOKS FULL OF BEAUTIFUL SCENES AND LOVE POEMS
ARE JUST "THINGS" ON A TABLE IF YOU CAN'T READ THEM.
THERE'S A COLLECTION OF POEMS ON THE TABLE.
MY LITTLE SISTER ALWAYS READS POETRY TO ME.
JUST NOW, YOU OPENED A PAGE FOR ME AS WELL.
TAP


DING DONG DING DONG
THANK YOU.
DONG
ACK!
FLOMP
WHOA!

AH!
...AHH!
OH, NO!
HEY, MR. SUNGLASSES!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
WHAT?
COULD YOU
OH! COULD-
SING FOR ME?
GRAB
HUH?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT. PLEASE, JUST SING A SWEET MELODY. ANYTHING WILL DO!
COUGH
...I'LL TAKE PAYMENT AFTER-WARD.

WOW!
CLAP
CLAP CLAP Bravo! CLAP
I'LL BE AT THIS RESTARAUNT LATER.
DO STOP BY! ♡
Dancing
That song was great!
Thank you!
Thank you!
CLAP CLAP
THEY'RE ACTUALLY GLASSES.
OH! YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S LIKE MAGIC.
FEEL FREE TO TAKE A PAIR
THANKS FOR THE HELP.
THAT'S AN ODD PLACE TO KEEP BUTTERFLIES.
HMM?

HEY!
YOU'RE... Y-
YES?
HUH?
I HAD A GREAT TIME DOING THAT.
COME WITH ME TO THE RESTAURANT.
It's small and dirty, but...
THE FOOD IS GREAT!
...G' NIGHT.
HM~
bow
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
OH, WAIT!

FOR MAKING ME FEEL SO GOOD.
THINK OF IT AS THANKS
OH.
LISTEN, IT'LL BE MY TREAT.
LIKE I COULD FLY ALL THE WAY TO THE MOON!
END

Lovely Strange Dark
YORU NO DOUWA
"EVENING FAIRY-TALES"
BY KONNO KITA
CHAPTER 7
Translation Kalendel
Editing Cpt Mischief
QC Ianu
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

LIGHT SOURCE

...HEY–
HEY, YOU.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
YOU'RE IN PAJAMAS? AND BAREFOOT?
DRESSED LIKE THAT...
...OH, THAT'S RIGHT. ARE YOU MAYBE A KID FROM THAT HOSPITAL?
YOU MUST HAVE SNUCK OUT.

ACTUALLY,
I'M ON AN ERRAND FOR GOD.
HE ENTRUSTED ME WITH A SUPER IMPORTANT JOB.

I wonder if we'll have clear skies tomorrow, too!
LOOK, MOMMY! THE STARS ARE OUT!
YUKE
THAT RIGHT THERE IS YOUR JOB?
I'M THE LIGHT SOURCE.
LIGHT SOURCE...
WHAT A GREAT JOB. I WOULDN'T MIND HELPING OUT, MYSELF.

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT.
CAN I ASK A FAVOR, MISTER?
AT THE END, JUST ONCE,
I'M ALLOWED TO USE IT FOR MY OWN SAKE.
COULD YOU TAKE THIS AND SHINE DOWN
ON MY MOM AND DAD FOR ME?
FADE
PROM-ISE.

BLINK
OH? DID YOU GO OUT?
hehe
I'M BACK, MOM.
REALLY NOW! I'M SURE YOU DID A GREAT JOB.
YUP. I JUST FINISHED MY ERRAND.
I WAS HAPPY TO.
END

Lovely Strange Dark
YORU NO DOUWA
"EVENING FAIRY-TALES"
BY KONNO KITA
CHAPTER 8
Translation Kalendel
Editing Cpt Mischief
QC Ianu
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

EVENING FAIRY☆TALES

PART ONE
SNOWY CAT
Just standing by my building at this hour...
Who's he?
Haa
EVENING.
I WAS JUST THINKING HOW COLD IT IS...

IT'S SUPPOSED TO REALLY COME DOWN TONIGHT.
GO HOME.
...EVENING.
UM,
SEEYA.
It'd be smart to avoid him.
WHERE'D THIS KID COME FROM?
Go home, he says?
...HUH,
THAT SO?
ARE YOU YUKIE TOSHIKO?

I'M HERE TO COLLECT YOUR RENTAL.
...I AM.
—CAN I HELP YOU?
I RENTED SOMETHING FROM YOU?
YES.
BUT I'VE NEVER MET YOU BEFORE.
...YEAH, UM...
TO BE MORE ACCURATE, THE AGREEMENT I MADE WAS WITH YUKIE SACHIKO.

SORRY IT'S JUST INSTANT.
THANKS.
YUKIE SACHIKO IS MY MOTHER—
MY MOM PASSED AWAY YEARS AND YEARS AGO.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE RENTED, BUT WHY WOULD YOU COME HERE AFTER ALL THIS TIME?
OH, AND YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME YOUR NAME EITHER.
I'M THE CAT LENDER

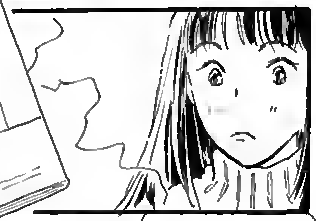
WAIT,
SO DOES THAT MEAN MOM RENTED A...
THINK OF IT AS A STAGE NAME.
THAT'S NOT A NAME.
A CAT, YES.
OH, HERE IT IS!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HIM INTO MY APARTMENT.
This guy
HE'S TROUBLE.
UM, LOOK, I'M TIRED OUT FROM WORKING OVERTIME.
I'M SORRY, BUT FOR TODAY, COULD WE JUST...
AND I'VE GOT WORK TO DO, TOO.
RUSTLE

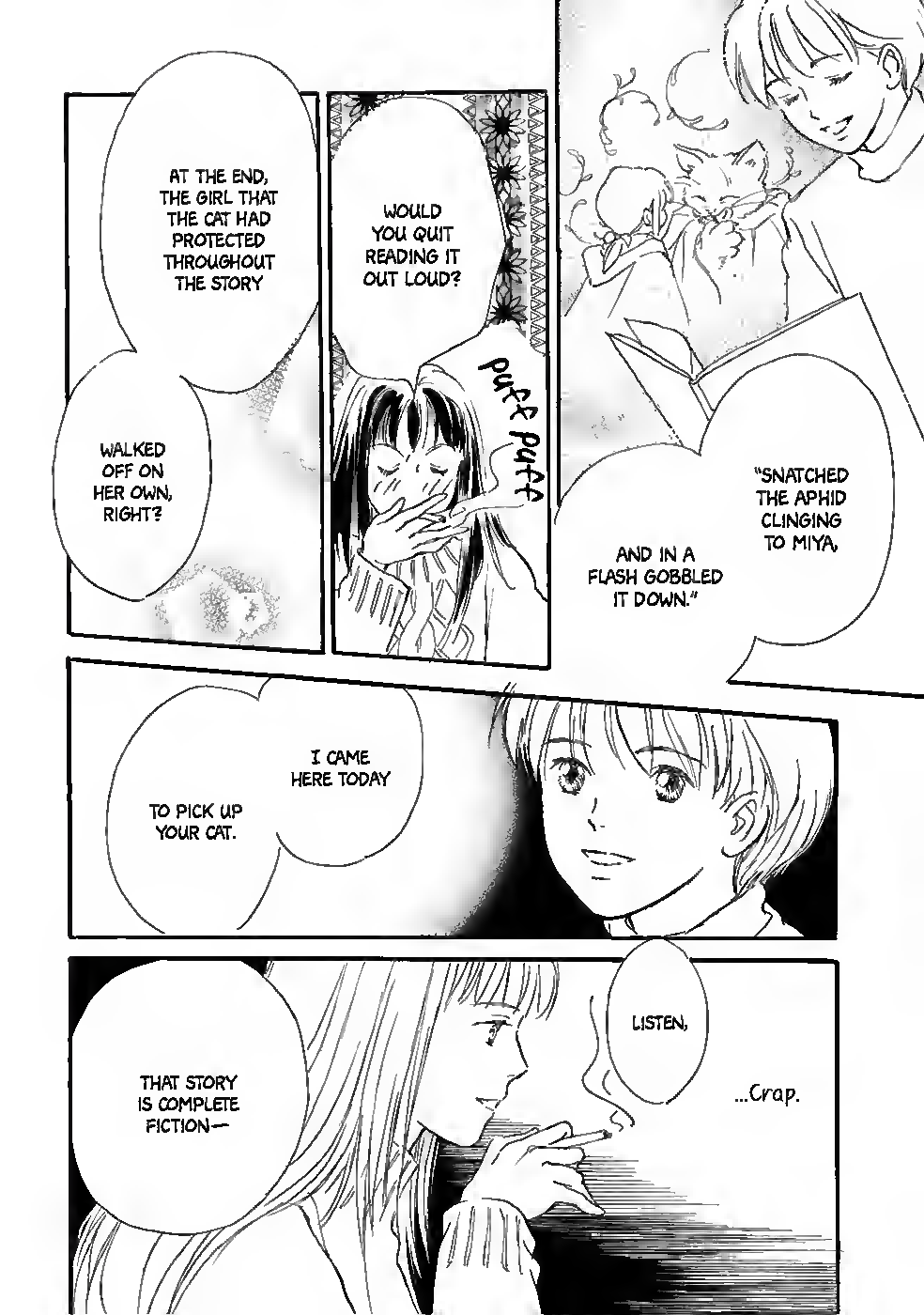
"You know, the reason you're always complaining about being lonely and sad..."

the snowy cat suddenly extended his hand."

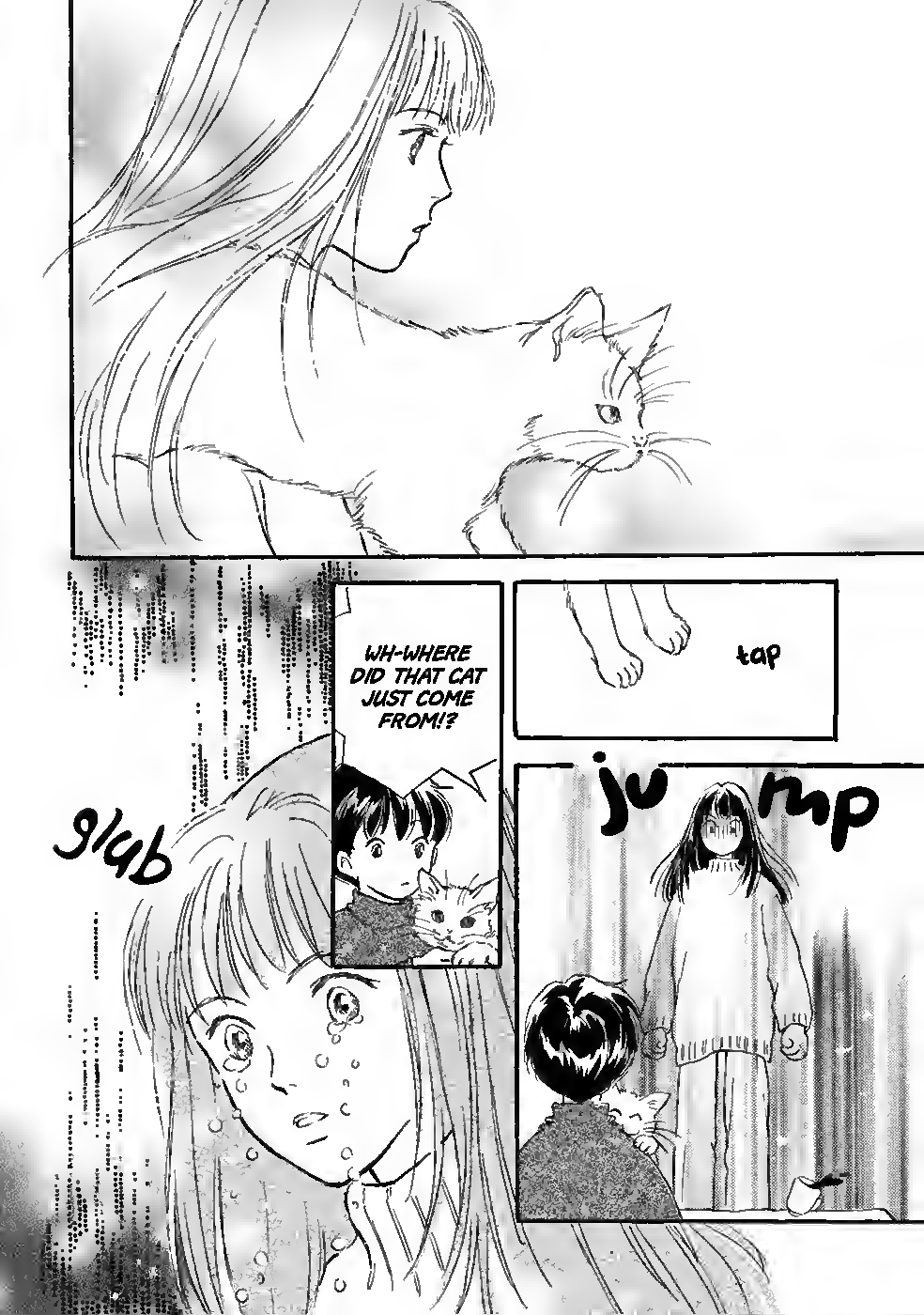
"Before he finished the sentence,

"That right there is a wooly aphid."




"SNATCHED THE APHID CLINGING TO MIYA,
AND IN A FLASH GOBBLED IT DOWN."
puff puff
WOULD YOU QUIT READING IT OUT LOUD?
AT THE END, THE GIRL THAT THE CAT HAD PROTECTED THROUGHOUT THE STORY
WALKED OFF ON HER OWN, RIGHT?
I CAME HERE TODAY
TO PICK UP YOUR CAT.
LISTEN,
...Crap.
THAT STORY IS COMPLETE FICTION—

I MEAN, JUST LOOK AROUND.
THERE'S NO CAT FOOD, CAT BOX, CAT ANYTHING HERE.
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD HAVE A CAT—
COME ON,
YOU CAN COME OUT NOW.
Maybe I can pick him up and toss him out
side


WH-WHERE DID THAT CAT JUST COME FROM!?
tap
jump
glub

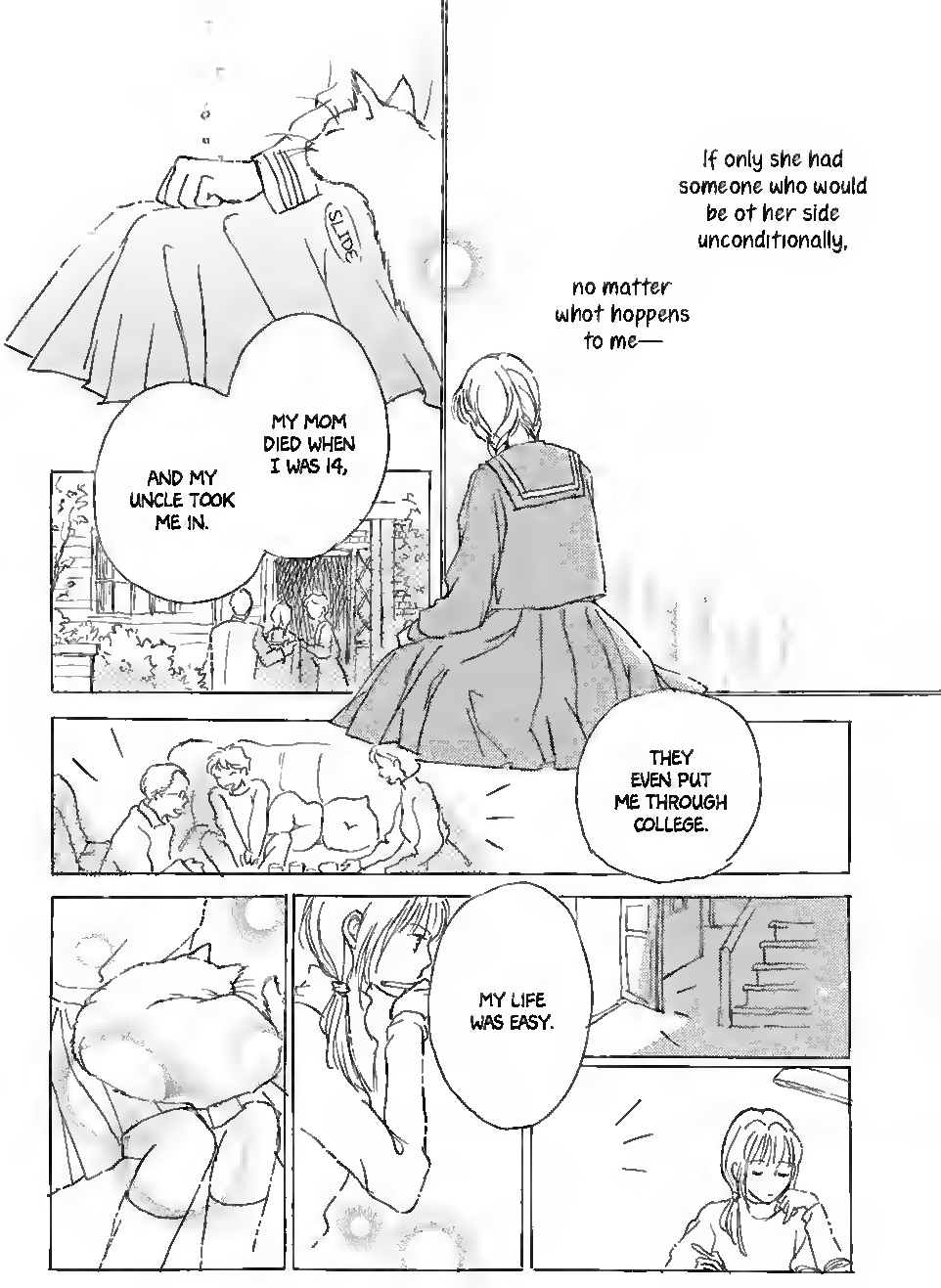
IS THIS A MAGIC TRICK?
Whoa, the water works keep coming
WHAT'S GOING ON?

IT CAN BE A LITTLE UNSETTLING IN THE BEGINNING,
BUT YOU'LL GET USED TO IT SOON ENOUGH.

YUKIE SACHIKO VISITED MY SHOP.

If only I could keep her from feeling that loneliness—

I don't have long left.
My one regret
is that my daughter will be alone after I'm gone.


If only she had someone who would be at her side unconditionally,
no matter what happens to me—
SLIDE
MY MOM DIED WHEN I WAS 14,
AND MY UNCLE TOOK ME IN.
THEY EVEN PUT ME THROUGH COLLEGE.
MY LIFE WAS EASY.

BUT IT NEVER LEFT YOUR SIDE.
IT WAS ALWAYS CLOSE TO YOU.
YOU COULD NEVER SEE IT,
THIS CAT WAS ALWAYS WITH YOU.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU NO LONGER NEED SOMEONE AT YOUR SIDE.
AND THIS CAT IS GETTING ON IN YEARS.
...HEY, WHAT ABOUT THE RENTAL FEE?
IT MUST BE HUGE AT THIS POINT.
Practical.

MOM WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AFFORD IT.
RUB
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. SOMETHING THAT RARE MUST BE EXPENSIVE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. THE PAYMENT'S BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.
...FAIR POINT
IF SHE HAD ANY YEARS TO GIVE, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE RENTED A CAT FOR YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.
YEAH, SHE DIDN'T PAY WITH MONEY.
HUH?
DON'T TELL ME SHE PAID WITH HER LIFE OR SOMETHING!?
SHE PAID WITH SOMETHING THAT, LIKE MONEY, SOME PEOPLE HAVE IN ABUNDANCE AND SOME PEOPLE DON'T.
HOWEVER, NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF IT YOU USE, IT NEVER RUNS OUT.

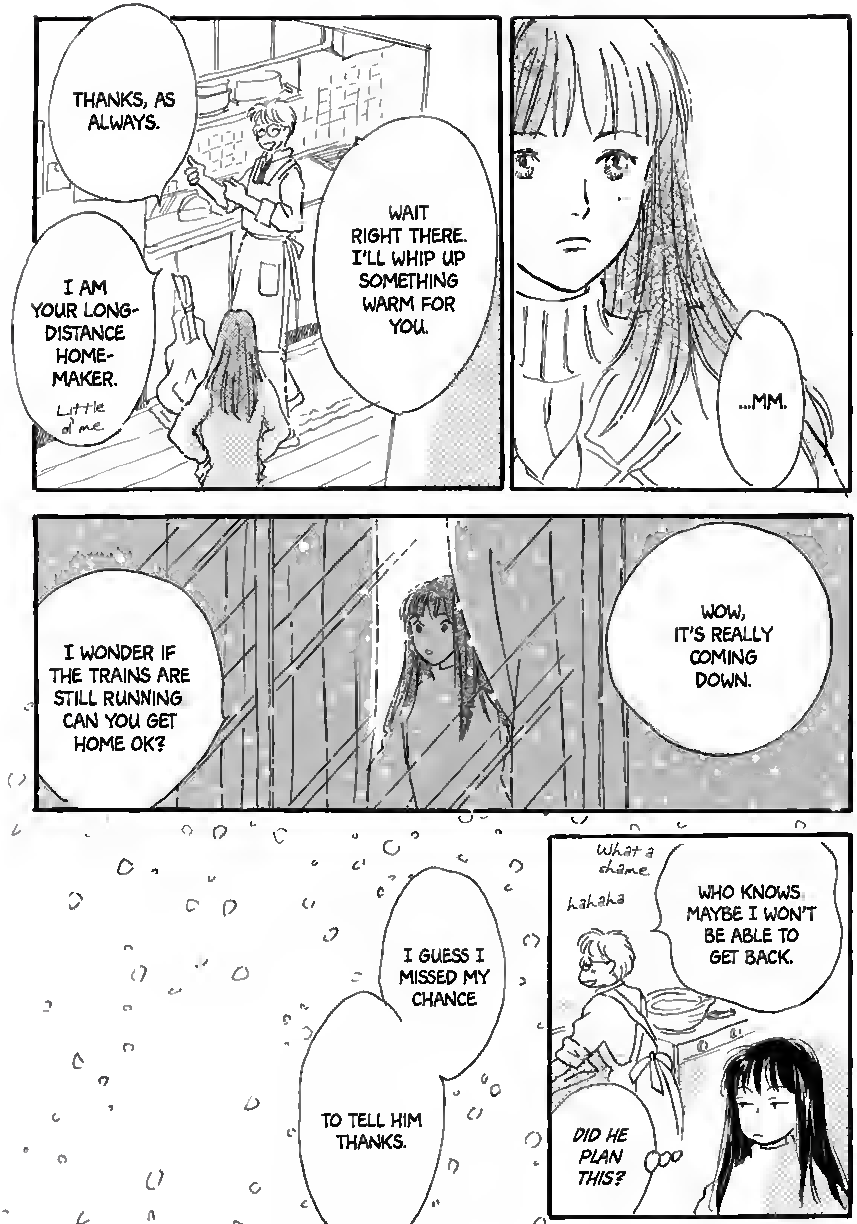
WELL,
IT'S A LITTLE HARD TO PUT INTO WORDS.
THAT'S A NICE RIDDLE.
WHAT IS IT?
I GUESS THE CLOSEST WORD
WOULD BE "LOVE".

IT'S NOT A TRICK,
BUT IT IS A FAIRY-TALE.
YOU CAN'T TRICK ME LIKE A CHILD.
THIS ISN'T SOME FAIRY-TALE.
Love

SORRY FOR BARGING IN AT NIGHT.
GOOD LUCK WITH WORK.
CAW
ALL THIS TIME, HASN'T IT?
I MEAN, THIS CAT'S BEEN WITH YOU
...W-
WAIT!
OH!
GOOD TIMING!

ERK!?
push
I'LL MAKE US SOMETHING GOOD TONIGHT~
I'M HERE TO CHEER YOU ON! BROUGHT YOU SOME FOOD.
slap
YOU IDIOT.
DID YOU HAVE A GUY IN HERE? —UH!
WHAT?
HEY, DID YOU SEE A BOY PASS BY?
I heard
I SAID BOY! A CHILD.
LIKE MIDDLE SCHOOL AGE

Middle school age?
Mom died twelve years ago.
TOSHI?
.....
HUH?
I GUESS..
YOU'VE GOT BRUISES UNDER YOUR EYES.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN SLEEPING MUCH, HAVE YOU?
...THAT'S WHY I KEEP SAYING WE SHOULD MOVE IN TOGETHER.
IF I QUIT MY DAY JOB, I WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP FOOD ON THE TABLE.
CLICK
HOW ABOUT YOU JUST STICK TO ONE JOB?

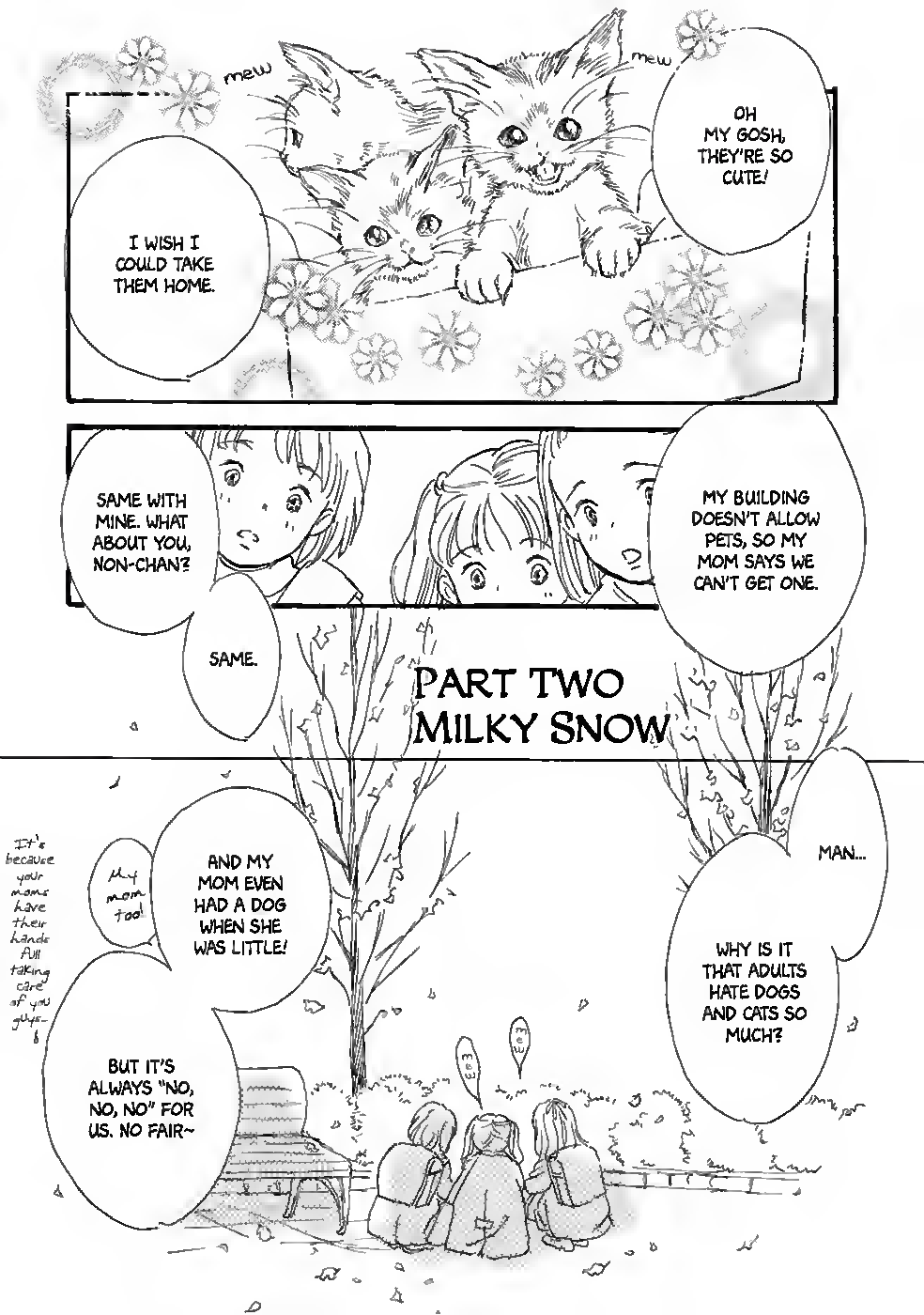

THANKS, AS ALWAYS.
I AM YOUR LONG-DISTANCE HOME-MAKER.
Little d'me.
WAIT RIGHT THERE. I'LL WHIP UP SOMETHING WARM FOR YOU.
...MM.
I WONDER IF THE TRAINS ARE STILL RUNNING CAN YOU GET HOME OK?
WOW, IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN.
What a shame.
kahaha
WHO KNOWS MAYBE I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET BACK.
DID HE PLAN THIS?
I GUESS I MISSED MY CHANCE
TO TELL HIM THANKS.

Snowy Cat
"THANKS FOR EVERY-THING YOU'VE DONE FOR ME."
"GOODBYE, MY CAT."
BUB
BUB
BUB
"Goodbye, my cat."
"Thanks for everything you've done for me.
I'm heading out!"

"The spell ended and winter was brought to a close. Look, the castle ice is melting. I'll walk forward alongside the ice melt as it drains toward spring.

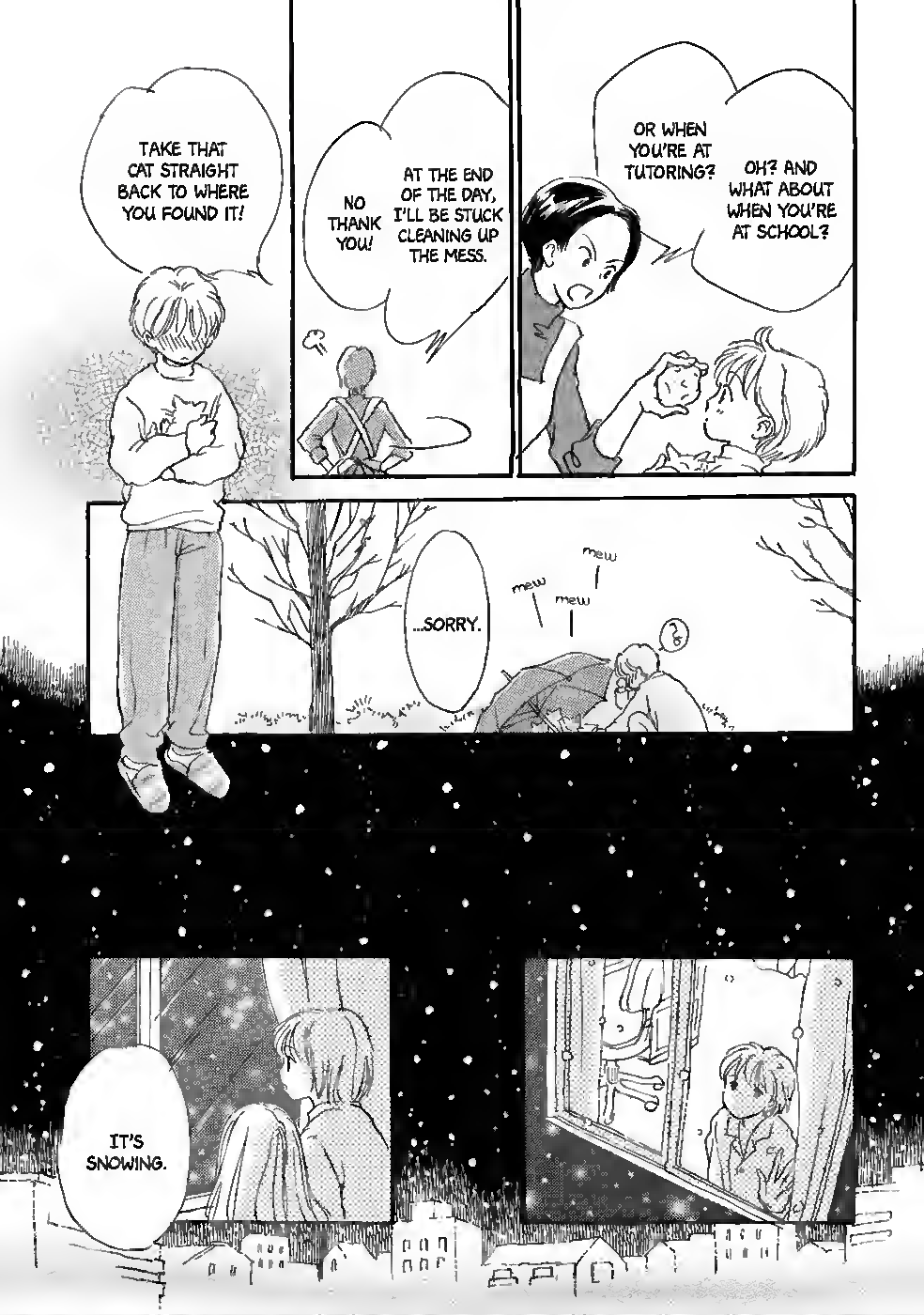
I'm sure this path will lead me across the rainbow."

END


mew
mew
OH MY GOSH, THEY'RE SO CUTE!
I WISH I COULD TAKE THEM HOME.
SAME WITH MINE. WHAT ABOUT YOU, NON-CHAN?
MY BUILDING DOESN'T ALLOW PETS, SO MY MOM SAYS WE CAN'T GET ONE.
SAME.
PART TWO
MILKY SNOW
It's because your moms have their hands full taking care of you guys~
My mom too!
AND MY MOM EVEN HAD A DOG WHEN SHE WAS LITTLE!
BUT IT'S ALWAYS "NO, NO, NO" FOR US. NO FAIR~
MAN...
WHY IS IT THAT ADULTS HATE DOGS AND CATS SO MUCH?

LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA RAIN
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? THEY'LL GET WET OUT HERE.
WE COULD PUT THEIR BOX UNDER A BENCH?
WE CAN'T DO THAT!
IF WE DID, EVEN IF SOMEONE CAME BY WHO COULD ADOPT THEM,
THEY'D PASS ON BY WITHOUT SEEING THEM.
OH, YEAH...
THE RED UMBRELLA WILL DRAW ATTENTION, TOO.
BUT WON'T YOUR PARENTS YELL AT YOU ABOUT THE UMBRELLA?
WAIT!
POP
I'LL TELL THEM I LOST IT.
stomp stomp stomp
Let's go, don't want to be late for tutoring

mew
MEW
No!
ABSO-LUTELY NOT!!
THAT CAT WILL SCRATCH THE WHOLE PLACE UP AND LEAVE HAIR EVERYWHERE!
I'D TRAIN IT MYSELF! AND TAKE CARE OF IT, TOO.
mew

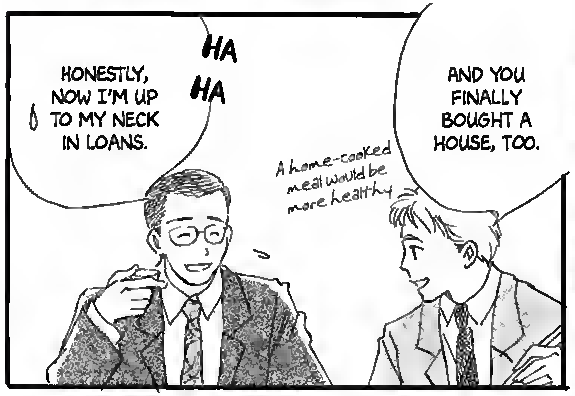

TAKE THAT CAT STRAIGHT BACK TO WHERE YOU FOUND IT!
NO THANK YOU!
AT THE END OF THE DAY, I'LL BE STUCK CLEANING UP THE MESS.
OR WHEN YOU'RE AT TUTORING?
OH? AND WHAT ABOUT WHEN YOU'RE AT SCHOOL?
...SORRY.
mew
mew
mew
IT'S SNOWING.

DO YOU THINK THEY'RE COLD?
MAYBE THEY'RE FREEZING?
I WONDER IF THOSE CATS ARE OK? MAYBE SOMEONE TOOK THEM.
EEE
EEE
EEE

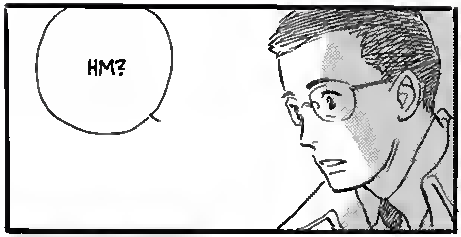
shake
shake
shake
shake
shake
Eee3
snuggle
shake
shake
END

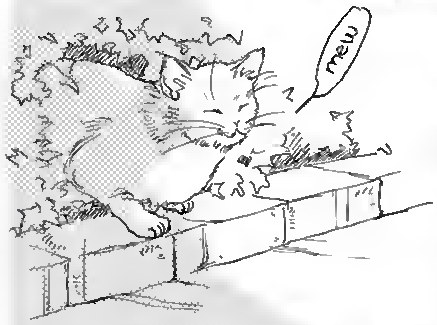
PART THREE EVENING FAIRY-TALES

I FEEL KINDA BAD FOR DRAGGING YOU OUT FOR DRINKS, TATSUKAWA.
HUH? DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
LAST NIGHT YOU HAD A BUSINESS DINNER, RIGHT?
AND BEFORE THAT, MEETINGS EVERY DAY...
WILL YOU GET TO EAT A SINGLE DINNER AT HOME THIS WEEK?
HMM, NOT SURE.



HARUKA?
IT TURNS OUT MY DAUGHTER'S A SPACE ALIEN.
THAT ARTIST WOULD BE CRYING.
YOU'VE GOT THAT BEAUTIFUL WIFE AND CUTE LITTLE GIRL. A PORTRAIT-WORTHY FAMILY.
AHAHAHA
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS THESE DAYS ARE ALL THE SAME.
MAKES ME THINK SHE'S GOT SOME FOREIGNER IN HER.
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW SHE TALKS, AND HER HAIR'S RED NOW.
She was a normal Japanese girl until she hit middle school
Good work today
Night
You OK?
YOU'RE PRETTY WASTED.
NO, NO! THIS IS AN INVASION OF SPACE ALIENS WHO LOOK LIKE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS!
Tatsukawa, you're sharp!


HM?


mew

RUSTLE

MM~ NICE AND WARM AND FLUFFY.
I think I'll walk home just like this

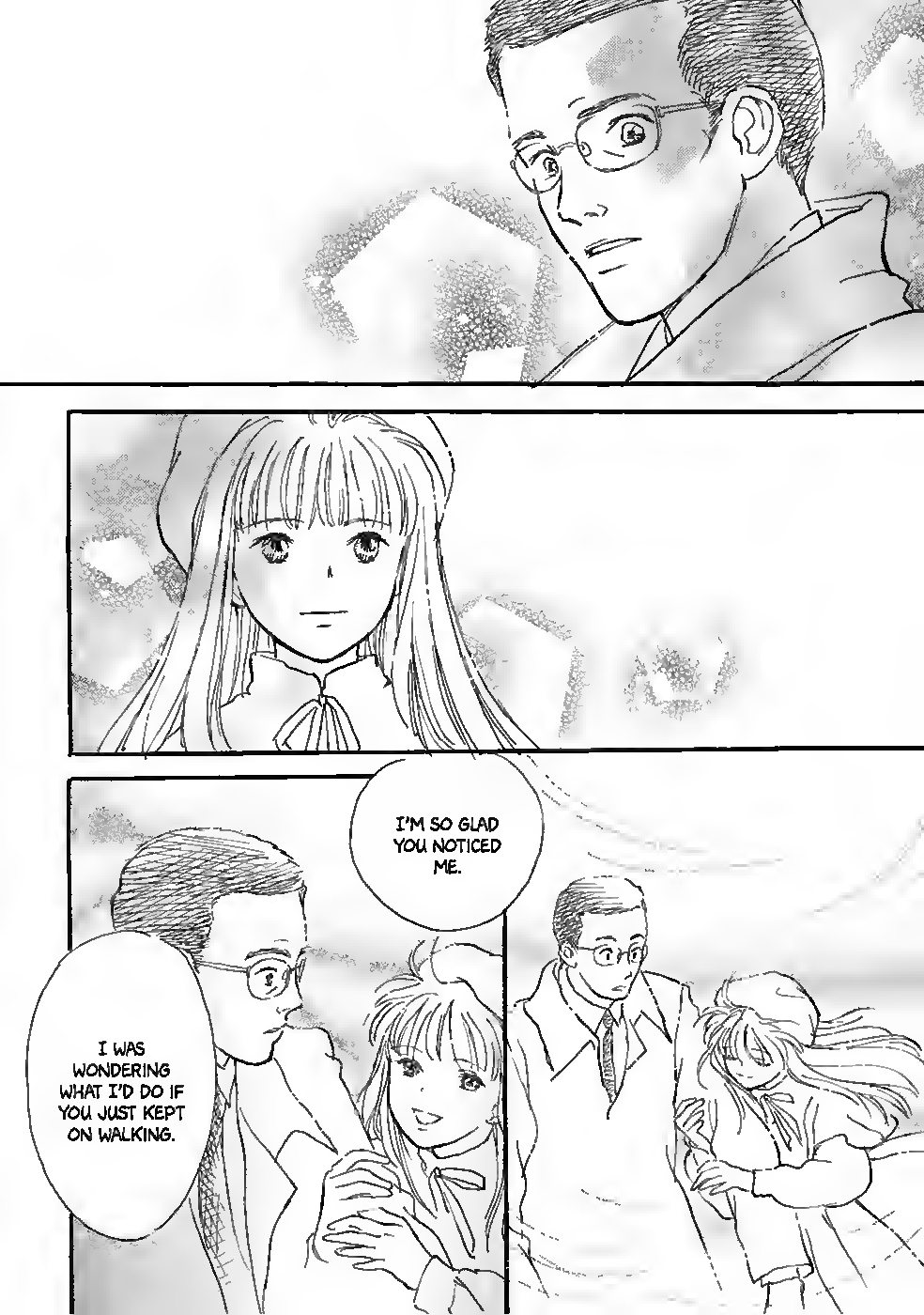
WHAT A FRIENDLY CAT.

WHY'RE YOU OUT HERE? YOU LOST, HM?
mew

EXCUSE ME!
IS THIS YOUR CAT?
nod
nod
haa
haa
...WHAT A RELIEF.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE SHE WENT OUT, SO I WAS GETTING WORRIED.
I JUST STARTED RUNNING AROUND LOOKING FOR HER.
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE LIKES YOU.
SEEMS SO.
No~
scrape

LET ME GIVE YOU SOMETHING AS THANKS FOR FINDING HER.
OH NO, I'M FINE. IT WAS NO BIG DEAL.
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING THAT YOU WANT?
...That...
Is this like that golden axe and silver axe parable?
is a really dubious offer.
Maybe this is like a good deed for church? But he's pretty young..
I'll play it safe
WELL NOW.
HOW ABOUT FINDING ME MY CHILDHOOD CRUSH?
That's something I never got to experience.
YOUR CHILDHOOD CRUSH, HUH.

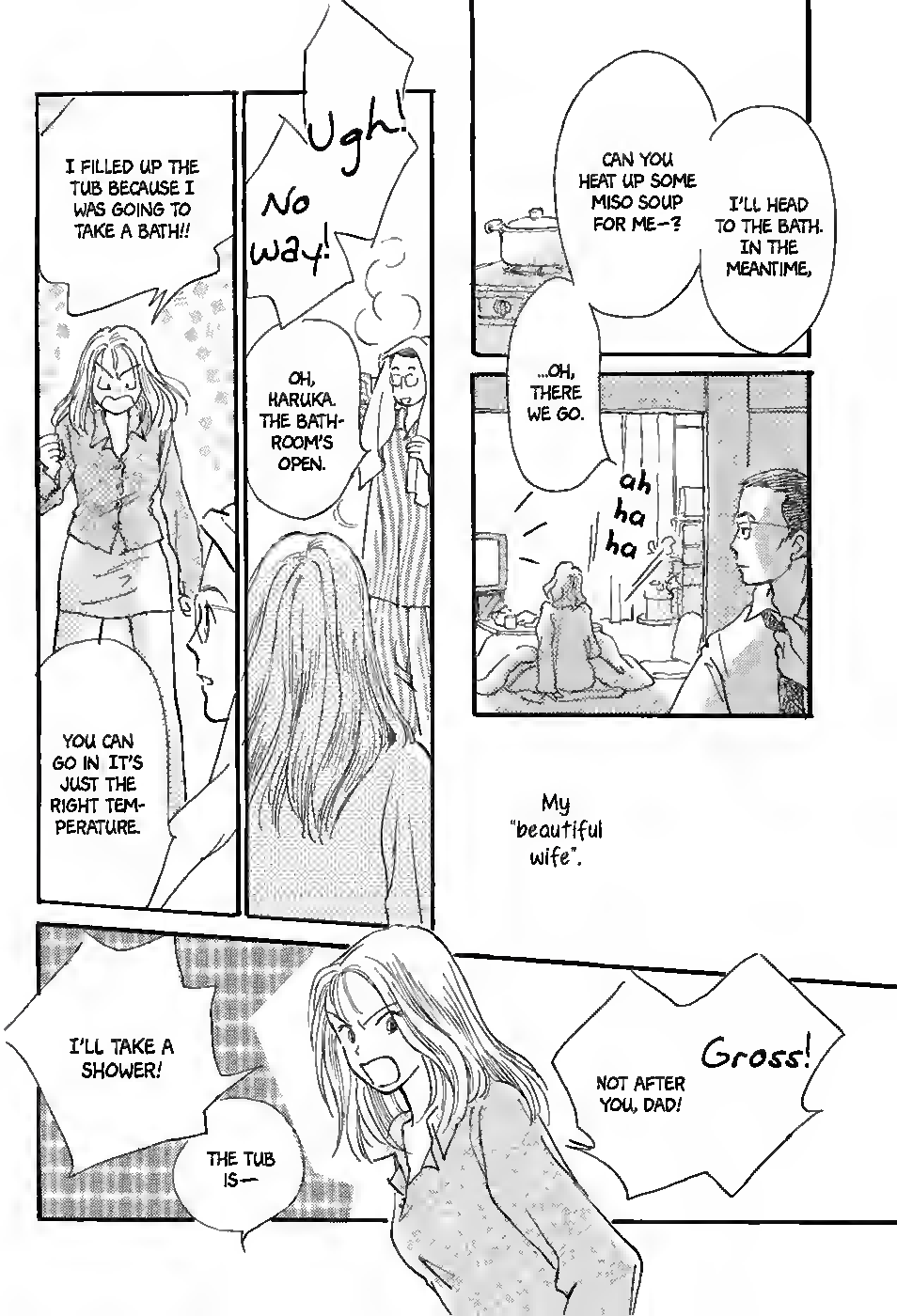
I don't get kids these days.
...BYE.
FARE-WELL.
GOT IT. I'LL DO MY BEST.


I'M SO GLAD YOU NOTICED ME.
I WAS WONDERING WHAT I'D DO IF YOU JUST KEPT ON WALKING.

SHE'S TOO YOUNG TO BE HARUKA'S FRIEND.
EVEN IF SHE SAYS THAT...
SMILE SMILE
AND WHO ARE YOU?
IT'S ME!
something about her
feels familiar
But this girl...
WHAT ABOUT YOU? AREN'T YOU A CHILD?
I'M 42.
CHILDREN SHOULDN'T BE OUT AT THIS HOUR WALKING ALONE.
and makes my heart flutter.
OH GOD, AM I A PERVERT?
OH!
THEN I'M THE SAME.

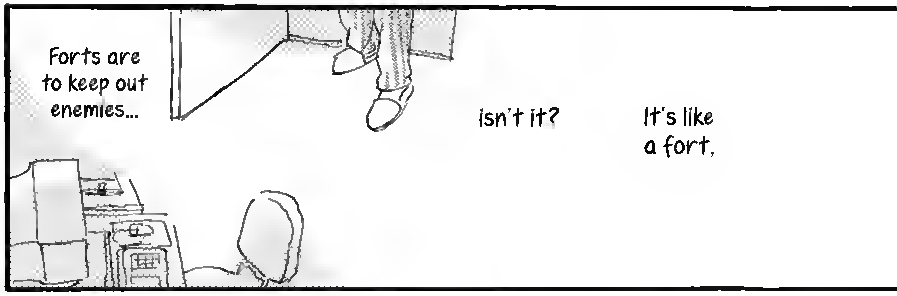
ANYWAY,
IT'S GETTING LATE. HURRY ON HOME.
...
YOU'RE WHAT, 12 OR 13 AT THE MOST?
THEN YOU'RE THE SAME.
Weird things seem to happen all the time at the end of the year.
YES.
I AM GOING HOME.
OH, REALLY?
So it's in the same direction.
Maybe she lives in the neighborhood
.....
HEY..
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO GO HOME?

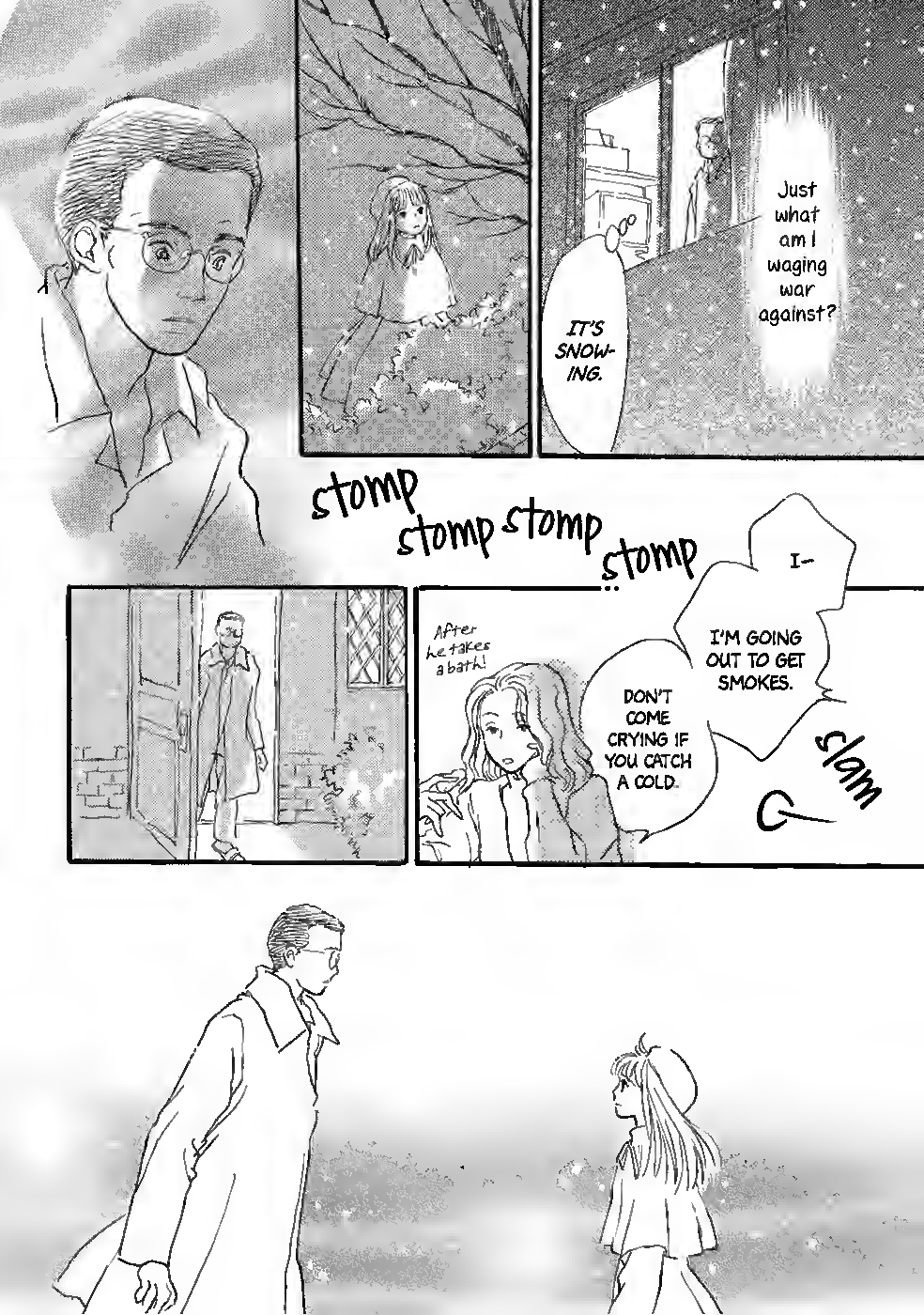
.....
stop
GOOD-NIGHT!
YOU'RE LATE.
WE ALREADY ATE.
YEAH.
Just what's going on tonight?
I'M BACK.

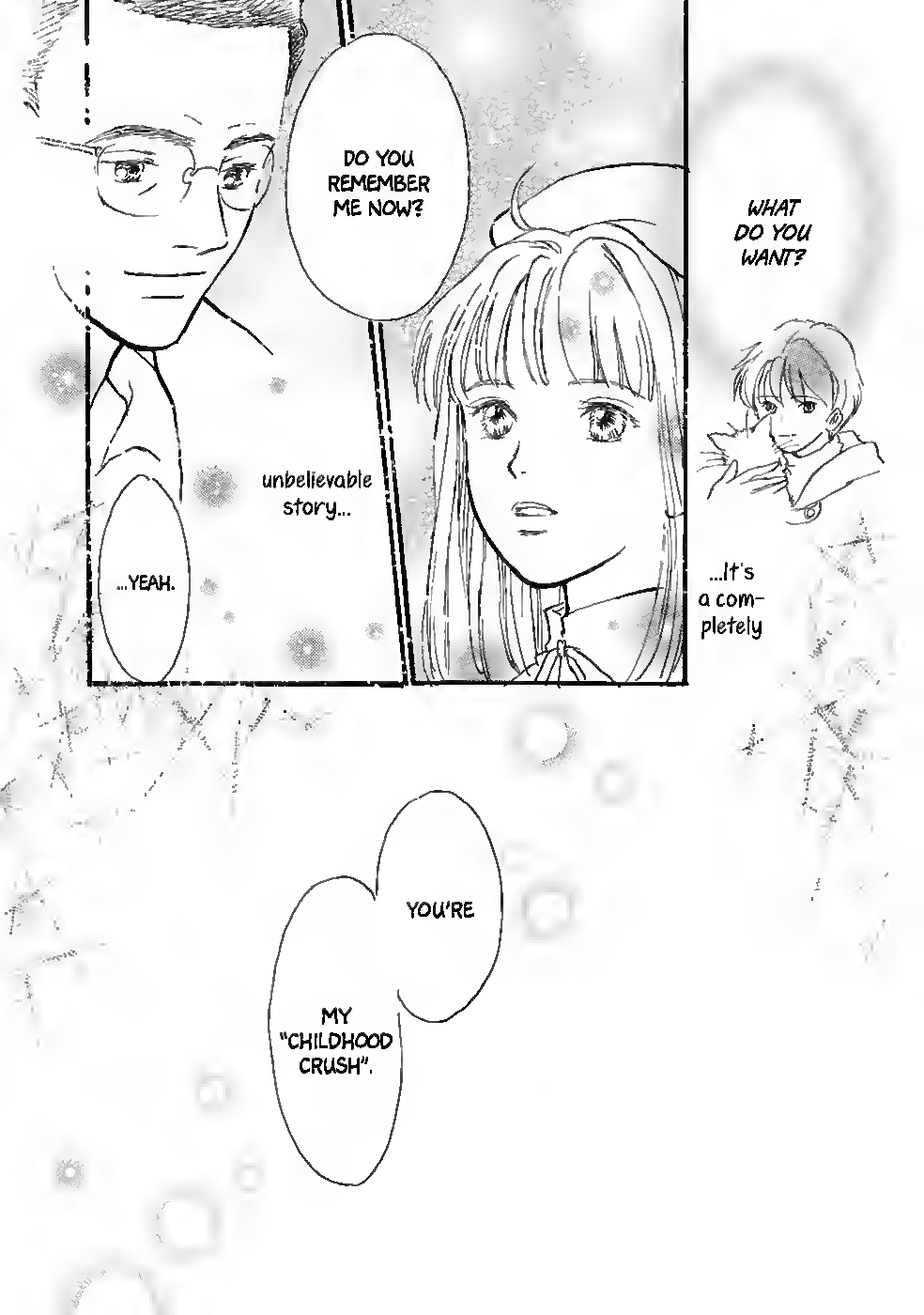

I'LL HEAD TO THE BATH. IN THE MEANTIME,
CAN YOU HEAT UP SOME MISO SOUP FOR ME—?
...OH, THERE WE GO.
ah ha ha
My "beautiful wife".
I FILLED UP THE TUB BECAUSE I WAS GOING TO TAKE A BATH!!
Ugh! No way!
OH, HARUKA. THE BATHROOM'S OPEN.
YOU CAN GO IN IT'S JUST THE RIGHT TEMPERATURE.
I'LL TAKE A SHOWER!
THE TUB IS—
NOT AFTER YOU, DAD!
Gross!

My "cute daughter".

My "home".

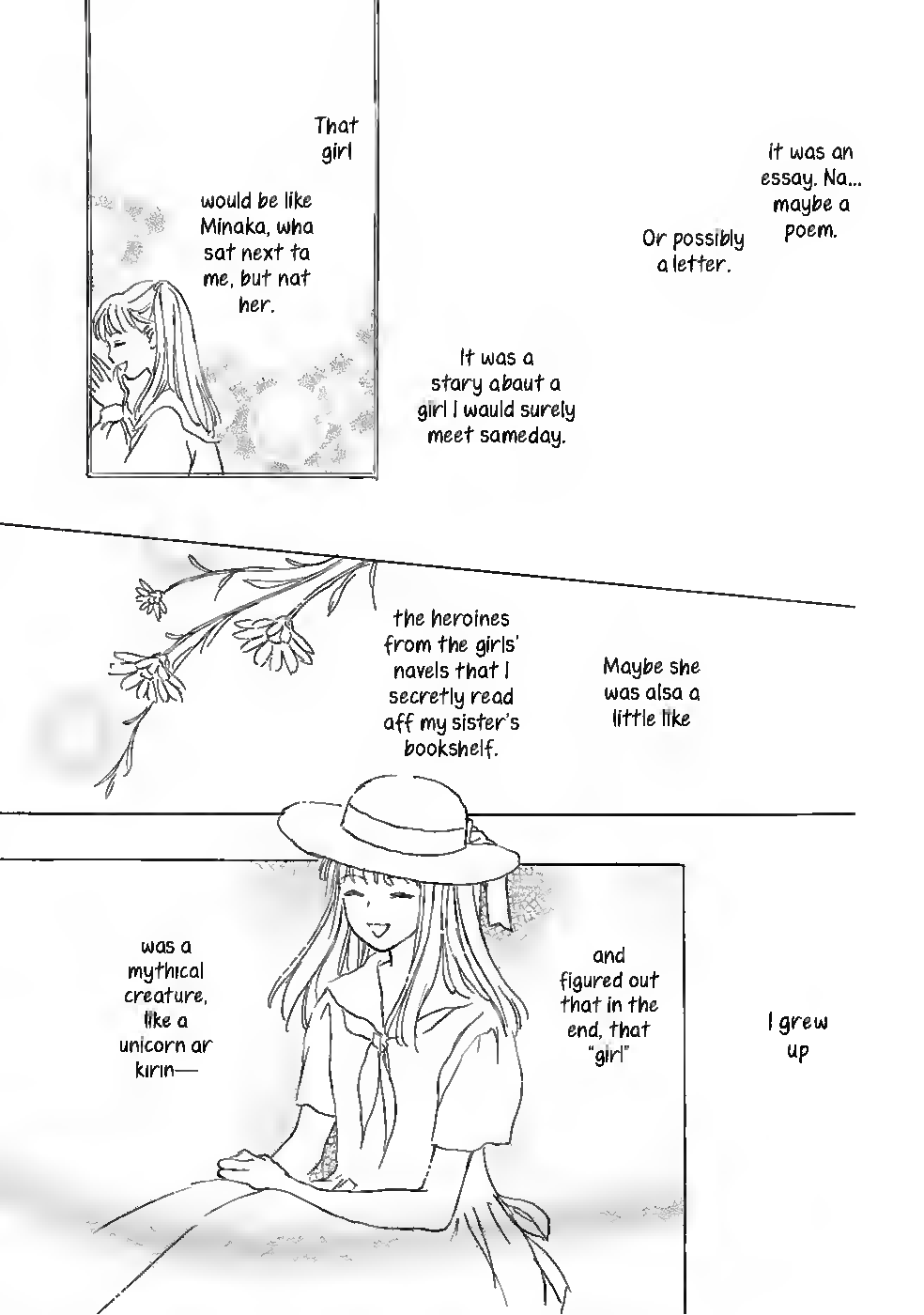



Just what am I waging war against?
IT'S SNOW-ING.
stomp stomp stomp stomp..
I-
I'M GOING OUT TO GET SMOKES.
DON'T COME CRYING IF YOU CATCH A COLD.
After he takes a bath!
slam

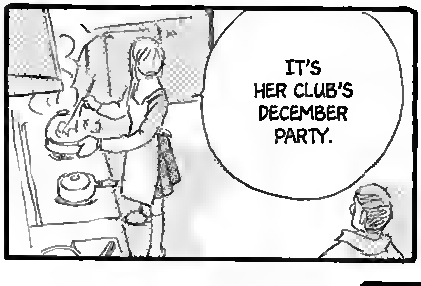

DO YOU REMEMBER ME NOW?
...YEAH.
unbelievable story...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
...It's a completely
YOU'RE
MY "CHILDHOOD CRUSH".

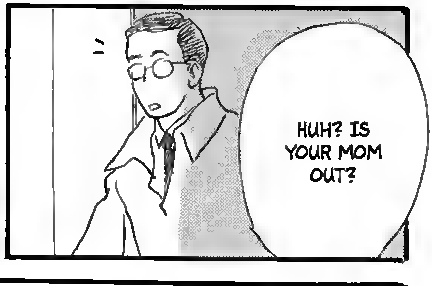
How old was I then?

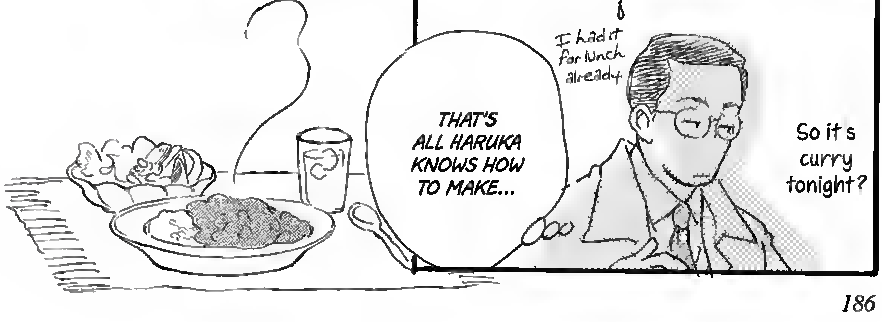
I think

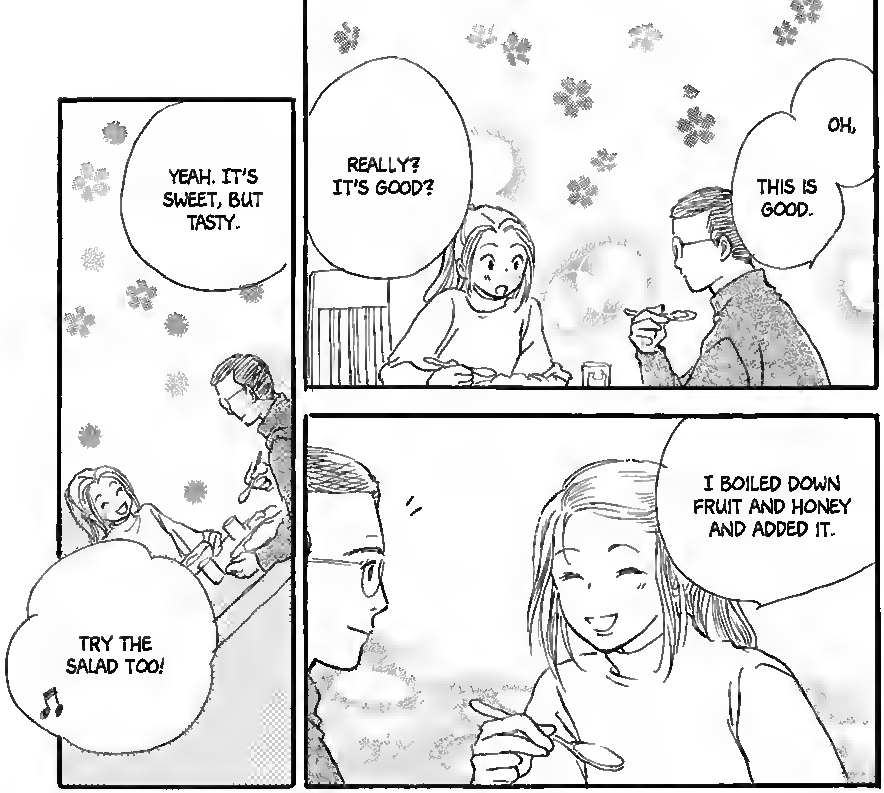

That girl would be like Minaka, wha sat next ta me, but nat her.
Or possibly a letter.
it was an essay. Na... maybe a poem.
It was a stary abaut a girl I wauld surely meet sameday.
the heroines from the girls' navels that I secretly read aff my sister's bookshelf.
Maybe she was alsa a little like
was a mythical creature, like a unicorn ar kirin—
and figured out that in the end, that "girl"
I grew up

I'M BACK.
DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN?
IT'S A SECRET.
Can't tell you, it's too good
CHEAP-SKATE~
YOU'VE BEEN IN HIGH FORM RECENTLY, TATSUKAWA. YOU'RE THE TOP PERFORMER RIGHT NOW.
At this rate, you might get the Hawaii trip

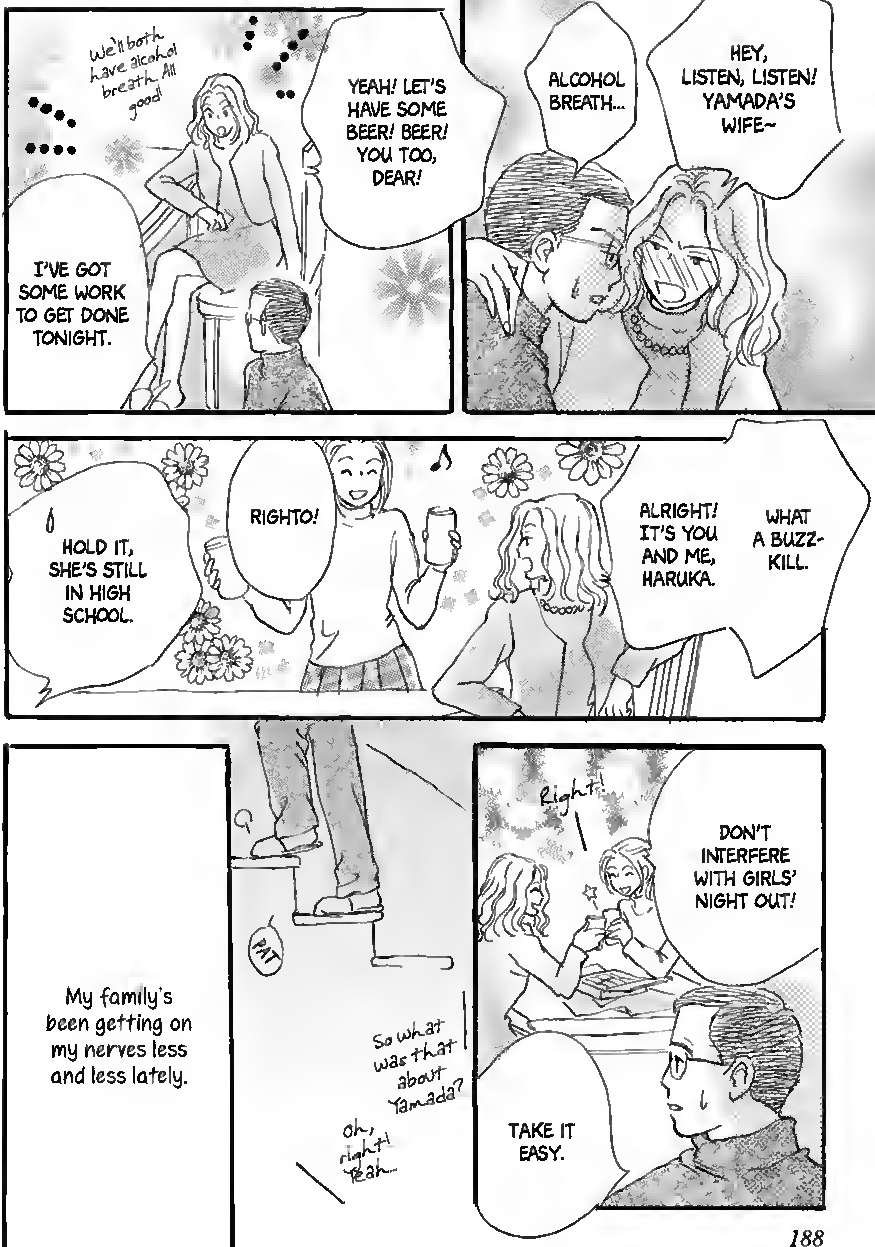

IT'S HER CLUB'S DECEMBER PARTY.


HUH? IS YOUR MOM OUT?

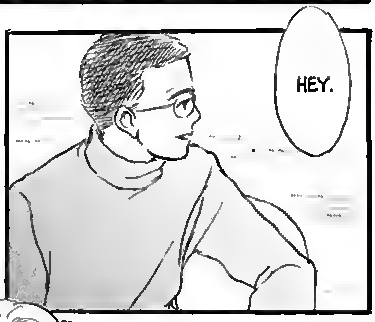

THAT'S ALL HARUKA KNOWS HOW TO MAKE...
I had it for lunch already
So it's curry tonight?


OH, THIS IS GOOD.
REALLY? IT'S GOOD?
YEAH. IT'S SWEET, BUT TASTY.
I BOILED DOWN FRUIT AND HONEY AND ADDED IT.
TRY THE SALAD TOO!

I'm back~
BACK
WE JUST FINISHED CURRY.
LOOK HERE.
LET'S ALL ENJOY~
HEY, I BROUGHT SUSHI~


We'll both have alcohol breath. All good!
YEAH! LET'S HAVE SOME BEER! BEER! YOU TOO, DEAR!
I'VE GOT SOME WORK TO GET DONE TONIGHT.
ALCOHOL BREATH...
HEY, LISTEN, LISTEN! YAMADA'S WIFE~
HOLD IT, SHE'S STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL.
RIGHTO!
ALRIGHT! IT'S YOU AND ME, HARUKA.
WHAT A BUZZ-KILL.
My family's been getting on my nerves less and less lately.
PAT
So what was that about Yamada?
Oh, right! Yeah
Right!
DON'T INTERFERE WITH GIRLS' NIGHT OUT!
TAKE IT EASY.

Like a cat,



the girl just pops up sometimes

and stays at my side.

She just stays at my side

and smiles.

Yeah,

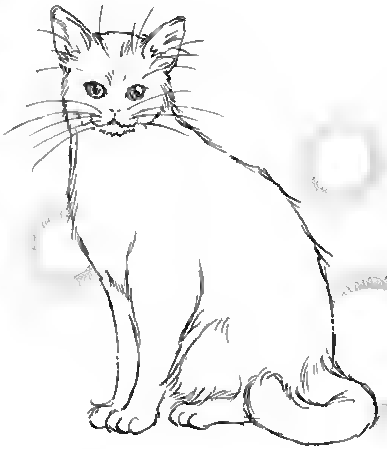
it's nice to have this strange thing in my life.

You

are a
paem, a
stary.

An evening
fairy-tale

written
just far me.



END

This is a reprint of the comic published in 2001 by Poplar Sha. The stories are doujinshi I drew between '95 and '98.

Unlike paid jobs, with doujinshi you can just rush through with poor storyboards and finish quickly in a marathon setting.

Back when I didn't have many drawing jobs (not that I have many now), I did these doujinshi as practice. But since I avoided doing the critical storyboard work, my work gained neither polish nor sophistication. I guess it gained spontaneity...? But I simply enjoy drawing manga, so it was only natural to do doujinshi.

While this volume contains only stories I drew as a hobby, I hope that those who read it can feel an inkling of the excitement I felt when I drew them.

Thank you for reading. And for giving new readers the chance to pick up this reprint, I also have to give my gratitude to Gentosha.

2002 Konno Kita